Title: Public Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement for Holtec International's Hi-store Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel Located in Lea County, New Mexico

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S HI-STORE
CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR SPENT
NUCLEAR FUEL LOCATED IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

TUESDAY,
MAY 1, 2018

HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in
the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Lea County
Event Center, 5101 N. Lovington Highway, at 7:00 p.m.,
Chip Cameron, facilitating.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:
CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator
BRIAN SMITH, Deputy Director, Division of Fuel Cycle
Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and
Safeguards (NMSS)
JILL CAVERLY, Environmental Review Project Manager,
Environmental Review Branch, NMSS
JOSE CUADRADO, Licensing and Safety Review Project Manager, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS
JOHN McKIRGAN, Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS
CINTHYA ROMAN, Chief, Environmental Review Branch, NMSS
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MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the public meeting tonight. My name is Chip Cameron, and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator tonight, and in that role, I'm going to try to help all of you to have a productive meeting tonight.

And this is the second public meeting that we're doing in southeastern New Mexico. We were in Roswell last night. And the topic of the meeting is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and we're going to use NRC. We're going to try to keep the acronyms down, but you will hear NRC.

Tonight's meeting is going to focus on the NRC's review of the license application that we received from the Holtec International Company to construct and operate a spent fuel storage facility in Lea County, New Mexico. And the focus, specific focus, of the meeting tonight is something called scoping.

And scoping is a term that's used under the National Environmental Policy Act. Another acronym you're going to hear is NEPA. And the National Environmental Policy Act requires federal
agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on what are called major federal actions.

This is a major federal action under the NRC regulations. So they're preparing a draft, an Environmental Impact Statement, okay, to help guide the NRC's decisionmaking on whether to grant the license to Holtec International.

Part of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is the agency does scoping. And it's a simple concept, really. It's what should be considered, what should be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement, and what doesn't need to be evaluated. In other words, what's the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

And that's why the NRC staff, they're all here at the table, and I'll introduce them in a minute, they're here to hear your advice and recommendations on what should in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. And we have two objectives tonight. And one of them, the first one is to have the NRC clearly explain what its license review process is, and particularly the environmental review.

You're going to find out that the NRC review of the license application has two major
components. One is the safety component, does it meet
the NRC's safety regulations. The other component is
an environmental review, the preparation of the EIS.
So first objective, clearly explain the review process
to you.

Second objective, give the NRC staff an
opportunity to hear from all of you on your concerns,
your recommendations in regard to the review. And
those objectives guide the major segments of the
agenda tonight. First of all, we're going to start in
a few minutes with presentations from the NRC staff,
then we're going to go to the second segment of the
meeting, which is to hear comments from all of you.

And we'll have a few minutes after the
first segment, in other words, the NRC presentations,
to see if you have any clarifying questions on the
review process. Then we're going to go to comment,
and that probably will happen about 7:45 or maybe a
little bit earlier than that.

Your comments tonight are going to be on-
the-record comments. Matthew McMullen is our court
reporter, our stenographer tonight, and he will be
capturing your comments. And those comments will be,
that transcript of the comments is going to be made
publicly available, and it'll probably be on the NRC
website in two to three weeks. And the NRC staff is going to tell you how you tune into the website for those particular projects.

If you haven't signed up, if you want to speak and you haven't signed up, filled out a blue card, my colleague in the back, Miriam Juckett, back there, she has a blue card. Just signal Miriam if you want to sign up to speak, and we'll put you on the list tonight.

Now, I'm asking everybody to follow a five-minute guideline for speaking. And to try to be crisp, we have a lot of speakers tonight, I'll give you a gentle reminder at the four-minute mark to sum up for us. And I apologize in advance for if I have to ask you to stop speaking, because I know that you spent time preparing your comments.

Now, fortunately, you can amplify on anything you say tonight, and if you hadn't said anything, you can send your comments in in written form to the NRC. Comments tonight, oral comments, have the same weight as written comments. And the NRC staff is going to tell you how you will submit written comments tonight.

One other thing that is important is that the NRC staff is here to listen carefully to your
comments tonight, and to listen to any questions that you might have when you come up to give a comment. But they're not going to be responding to those. They're going to be listening, and then they will carefully evaluate your comments and questions when they prepare the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

That statement is also subject to a public process like this, written comments, public meetings. But the NRC also prepares what's called a scoping report where they describe the comments that come in, and that's also going to be publicly available to you.

We always know that there's a lot of interest in people talking, the public talking to the license applicant. And this is an NRC meeting, but we do have representatives from Holtec International here, Joy Russell is right here, and her colleagues. They're going to be, you probably spoke to them before we came in here. But they'll be here after the meeting to answer any questions that you might have.

In terms of the NRC presentations, we're going to start with Cinthya Roman. And Cinthya is the Chief of the Environmental Review Branch in the NRC's Division of Fuel Cycle Safeguards and Environmental Review. So that's where the Environmental Review is going to take place, in Cinthya's branch.
And the Project Manager, the main person for the NRC who's going to be taking care of preparing the Environmental Review, is Jill Caverly, right here. And Jill's going to tell you all about that.

And we have our senior official here tonight, NRC manager Brian Smith, and he's the Deputy Director of the division that I just mentioned. That division is in an office at the NRC, Rockville, Maryland, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

Okay, so that's the division. I mentioned that there's also a safety review. Because there is information that the public might give that has implications for the safety review, not just the environmental review, we ask our safety people to come with us. And the Branch Chief, John McKirgan, is here. And the Project Manager on the safety review is Jose Cuadrado. So they're here to listen carefully to you also.

One other important person, we have a senior Public Affairs staffer with us, and that's Dave McIntyre, right over there. And we also have staff from the Office of Congressional Affairs, and Angel is back there.

So I want to introduce, before we start, and we're going to go right to presentations, we do
have Caleb Garcia right here. And Caleb is with Senator Tom Udall's staff, and the Senator asked him to be here to listen to all your comments. So we thank the Senator for sending you, Caleb.

And with that, I think we're ready to go to Cinthya, and Cinthya's going to start out with some notes in Spanish for any Spanish speakers here, and then she'll go into her presentation. Then Jill, and then Brian.

MS. ROMAN: (Foreign language spoken.)

So as Chip mentioned, the staff in my branch is going to be doing the environmental review for the Holtec license application. So our main goal today is to hear from you, and I am going to be very brief for that reason.

First, I want to give you a very quick overview of what NRC does, and our role in regulating the Holtec project. Our agency is charged by federal law to be the nation's only regulator of commercial nuclear materials, independently ensuring these materials are used, handled, and stored safely and securely.

Our mission is to protect the public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment by regulating
the civilian use of radioactive materials. To accomplish our mission, we carefully review each license application we receive before making a decision on whether or not to grant an applicant's request.

The NRC regulates the operation of 99 nuclear power reactors that generate about 20% of the energy in the United States. We also regulate civilian use of nuclear materials, research reactors at universities, transportation of nuclear materials, and their storage and disposal.

NRC strives to be open and transparent in its review, and therefore stakeholders have many opportunities to provide comments. Today is an opportunity to participate in the, like the scoping thing. Next slide.

As an independent regulator, NRC determines whether it is safe to build and operate a storage facility at the proposed site. NRC does not promote or build a nuclear facility. Again, our mission and regulations are designed to protect both the public, workers, and the environment.

Holtec is applying for a license to store waste. They are not asking NRC permission to reprocess or generate more waste. We do not select
the location of the storage facility, we just evaluate
the impacts of building that facility at the location
proposed by the licensee.

As we will explain later in this
presentation, there is also the environmental review
will be documented in an Environmental Impact
Statement, which is a public statement. The analysis,
along with other factors, will form the basis for the
staff decision to issue a license or not.

Now, Jill Caverly will provide some
additional details about the Holtec project and the
environmental review process. Thank you.

MS. CAVERLY: Thanks, Cinthya. Hi, I'm
Jill Caverly. Can you hear? Is that working? Is
that working? So good evening, I'm Jill Caverly, and
I'm going to be the Environmental Project Manager for
this review. I was going to mention, I'm assisted by
Stacey Imboden, who you might have met out in the
lobby this evening.

So the next few slides will be specific to
the Holtec storage facility application and review.
Holtec has applied for a license to construct and
operate the storage facility under 10 CFR Part 72, the
NRC's regulations for governing storage of spent
nuclear fuel and reactor-related, greater than Class
C waste.

If granted, Holtec would receive 40-year license to construct and operate the consolidated interim storage facility. The current application before the NRC requests construction and operation of only the first phase of up to 20 planned phases. In this current application, Holtec is requesting storage of up to 500 canisters of spent nuclear fuel.

This spent fuel would come from shut down and operating nuclear power plants from around the country. Holtec anticipates applying for up to 20 phases of construction and operation of 500 canisters of spent nuclear fuel each, for a total of 10,000 canisters of spent fuel storage.

However, these additional phases would require separate applications from Holtec, and would be subject to their own safety and environmental reviews. The Environmental Report provides information on the full build-out of the site for 10,000 canisters. Next slide, please.

This slide shows the approximate location of the proposed consolidated interim storage facility in New Mexico. The facility would be located approximately halfway between the cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs in Lea County. Next slide.
Holtec plans to use the HI-STORM UMAX system for storage of the spent fuel. HI-STORM UMAX stands for Holtec International storage module underground maximum capacity, and is an NRC-certified design, which means we have evaluated it and determined that it meets NRC regulations and can safely store spent fuel.

The system is a dry, in-ground, spent fuel storage system. Each of these modules holds one canister of spent fuel, and Holtec has applied for storage of 500 canisters of spent fuel. The canisters' transfer facilities would be below ground. This is a low profile design, and is seen in this conceptual drawing from the Holtec application.

This flow chart provides an overview of the license application review process, which can be described generally as a three-parallel-phrase process. After the application is submitted, the NRC conducts an acceptance review to determine if the application has sufficient information to begin a detailed technical review. If so, NRC docket the application, and this begins the safety and environmental review paths.

From a safety standpoint, we work through a separate safety review to decide if the license
should be issued. The result of this phase of the review is a safety evaluation report. This is graphically represented on the left column of the flow chart with the steps in orange. As we mentioned, Jose Cuadrado and John McKirgan will be coordinating the safety review.

The environmental review, as seen in the middle column, resulted in an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. And this describes the impact on the environment from the proposed project. On the righthand side, you'll see the adjudicatory hearings. The blue box on the figure refers to the opportunity for the public to request a hearing on the application.

These hearings would be held if a petition to intervene is granted. The results of these three processes, a hearing if granted, the results of the environmental review documented in the EIS, and the safety review, documented in a safety evaluation report, will factor into NRC's final decision whether or not to grant the license to Holtec for the storage facility.

It's important to note that the focus of this meeting is the environmental review process. This flow diagram outlines the environmental review
process, or the middle column of the previous slide. Opportunities for public involvement are highlighted in light blue. As you can see, after the staff receive the application, it's reviewed to ensure it is complete and technically adequate.

If acceptable, the application is docketed and we proceed with both the environmental and safety reviews. The NRC starts the environmental review by publishing a notice of intent to inform the public of our plan to prepare an EIS and conduct the scoping process. The light blue box on the right side identifies our current scoping process, of which this meeting is included.

The purpose of this phase is to gather more information to use to help us prepare an EIS. Comments gathered from this meeting, as well as many other information collections, will be independently evaluated for impacts of this particular project on the environment.

We will document your comments today in the meeting transcript, and the public can review those written comments, and the transcripts will be provided on our website.

We analyze the information gathered, develop a draft EIS, and issue it for public comment.
At that time, we will again invite the public's comment on the draft EIS, or the lower left blue box. At that time, the staff will schedule a meeting to hear comments on the draft EIS, and we will evaluate those comments and consider modifying the draft EIS before issuing it final.

The final EIS and the results of the safety review, the safety evaluation report, contribute to NRC's final decision on the application.

So a little bit more about environmental review. Our review is based on the environmental, the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, which requires federal agencies to apply a systematic approach to evaluate the impacts of its actions. For major federal actions, NEPA requires agencies to document their evaluation in the EIS, and NRC will prepare this in accordance with those regulations and guidance.

Next slide. Here is a graphical representation of the types and sources of information that NRC gathers when preparing an EIS. We will conduct a site visit, we'll meet with local and state officials and other federal agencies as well as tribes.

We are currently gathering information for
scoping to help us determine which issues should be considered in our review. We expect to request additional information from Holtec following the completion of these activities.

NRC will gather information on a wide range of topics related to environmental issues. This slide shows many of the resource areas we will consider in our Environmental Impact Statement. The NRC typically includes the following resource areas listed here.

This slide is a high-level timeline for our anticipated environmental review. The stepwise approach meets our responsibilities under NEPA. We started our review with a notice of intent to conduct scoping and prepare an EIS. This started the 60-day scoping period. This public meeting is part of our scoping process, and we will continue to gather and analyze information related to the review and develop the EIS.

We tentatively expect to publish the draft EIS in June 2019. And that point, we'll publish a notice of availability, which will start at least a 45-day comment period. Those comments will be addressed and analyzed, and the EIS adjusted if necessary. We tentatively expect to issue the final
EIS in mid-2020.

The scoping process is intended to determine the scope of the EIS and identify significant issues to be analyzed in depth. It's also intended to identify and eliminate issues that are not significant.

Thirdly, it's intended to identify other environmental reviews and consultation requirements related to the proposed action. So in other words, we want to hear from you, because you live in the local area and may bring issues to our attention that we may not be aware of.

The NRC is requesting information and input specific to this proposed facility regarding what should be included or excluded from the scope of the EIS.

Some examples of information that the NRC are requesting are, are there local projects that are being planned or developed nearby? Have you identified wildlife or habitat that should be considered? Are there cultural resources that should be considered in the evaluation? Are there particular populations nearby that should be considered? Are there unique characteristics of the project site or local communities that NRC should consider in its
These are the ways that you can submit comments on the scope of the EIS. You may present the comments orally here today, or also in writing. You may submit comments through the regulations.gov website, and you can do that by searching for Docket ID NRC-2018-0052, and submit your comments there. You may also mail your comments to the address on this slide. And remember that all comments should be received by May 29.

For additional information on this application and the review, you can go to the federal rulemaking website or the NRC's public document room, and the NRC's project-specific website for the Holtec application. Additionally, the local libraries in Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Roswell have agreed to hold a copy of the Environmental Report for public review.

If you want to be on our mailing list or email list, please make sure that your name and address were provided to one of the NRC staff at the registration table. This is one way to ensure that you will be notified of upcoming meetings and issuance of draft and final EISs.

At the bottom of the slide are the NRC points of contact, Jose and myself. And please
remember that if you would like to provide additional comments, to do so by May 29. I'm going to turn it over to Brian.

MR. SMITH: Good evening, welcome, and thank you for taking the time to attend our public meeting tonight. We look forward to hearing your comments. As Chip mentioned, my division, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review has a responsibility for conducting this environmental review and preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

This is a responsibility that we take very seriously. The NRC's job is to protect the public safety and the environment by thoroughly reviewing each license application we receive before deciding whether or not to grant an applicant's request. We understand that in the audience tonight there are those that may oppose Holtec's license application, as well as those who may support it.

I want to assure you that we want to hear from both sides this evening. However, I want to remind you that the purpose of this meeting is to gather comments for the scoping of our EIS. We want to know what important information and issues we need to consider and analyze in our EIS.
We treat all the comments the same, whether a comment was made by one person or 100 people. We give each comment we receive the same careful consideration during the preparation of our EIS.

We will consider all of the oral and written comments we receive here tonight, as well as those we receive via letter, email, or through the federal rulemaking website, regulations.gov. The EIS, combined with the NRC's safety and security review of Holtec's license application request, will result in an NRC licensing decision to either approve the license request or disapprove it.

And now to maximize the amount of time for public comments, I'll turn it back over to Chip.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Cinthya and Joe and Brian. As I mentioned at the beginning, we do have a few minutes for any questions, to make sure that you understand the review process, and I wondered if -- we have a question. And could you just please tell us your name, sir.

MR. REMPER: I'm Albert Remper, and I'll repeat my question from last night. Would you please post on your website the attendance lists, because you know who every one of us is, but we don't know who we
are. So please be transparent in the same direction, you know, back to us so that people who are for it can talk among themselves, people who are against it, and we can have a real conversation.

And the second point, I think maybe as far as the process is concerned, I have the impression you are putting the cart before the horse. Would you please put, give us a very clear definition of who is the owner and who has the title to the spent fuel right now? Who will have it during transportation? And who will have it when it is at the interim storage site?

It's my understanding that we are in a totally gray zone there legally.

MR. CAMERON: And I think that's a, I think it's a question that we might want to answer when we prepare the scoping report. If you want to give some information now on that, John, go ahead. But it gets us into a whole lot of stuff.

MR. McKIRGAN: So my name's John McKirgan, I'm Chief of the Spent Fuel Licensing Branch. Just by way of information, I would like to offer that some of that is discussed in the application that's submitted by Holtec. I think you can see their discussion of a title --
Let's try that one last time. So some of that information is available in the application. The NRC staff will be evaluating that as we conduct our review. So with that, I'll ask Chip if we can move on to another process question.

MR. CAMERON: Yeah, let's do that. We noted the gentleman's two points, and we'll take care of that. Anybody? Yes, ma'am, and just please tell us your name, if you would.

MS. UNDERWOOD: Sandra Underwood. I just had a question about the draft EIS. You said that that would be released probably June of next year. I'm just wondering how that information is given to the community. How are we to be made aware that is ready and we've entered that 45-day comment period?

MR. CAMERON: Good question. Why don't you use this?

MS. ROMAN: Once the draft EIS is available, we will issue a Federal Register Notice announcing that it's available. Can you hear me now? Is it better? Okay. Once the draft EIS is available, we will issue a Federal Register Notice letting people know that it's available for public review and comments. We will also come again here to talk to the people about our findings and receive comments.
MR. CAMERON: One other point on that for you is that the NRC usually puts a copy of the draft EIS in the public libraries in any of the communities around here. So it will be available in that form also. Does that answer your question?

MS. UNDERWOOD: I was just mainly wondering how I would know. Like, I use Audible, I don't go to the library. So you know, how would I receive that notice that the period has begun?

MR. CAMERON: Cinthya?

MS. ROMAN: You can also register to our listserve. You can give us your email, and you will receive information about the progress of our review. And we will also issue a press release letting people know. So we will try to find other ways to let people know that this is available.

MR. CAMERON: Good question, thank you for asking that. Susybelle, you want to ask a question? All right, excuse me, I'm coming in here. And we need to get everybody on the microphone, even though some of the microphones don't work, but this one does. So that the stenographer can hear.

MS. LEVINE: Yes, my name is Carol Levine, and you said that some of the information that was requested would be in the application. Where do we
find the Holtec application to look those things up, please?

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MR. CUADRADO: Thank you for your question. The application, there's multiple ways of accessing the application. As the, our colleagues Cinthya and Chip mentioned, copies of the Environmental Report, we have sent copies to public libraries here so that people can actually access that.

I know that Holtec has also sent copies of the entire application, not just the Environmental Report, to local libraries as well. So you can, if you want to see that information there, that information is also publicly available in the NRC's agency-wide document management system.

We have made links available to that application in the NRC Holtec-specific website, which is the fourth bullet right there in the slide. If you go there, what you'll see is all the information that the NRC has received from Holtec that is publicly available. You can access it there, download it, you know, read through it.

And this includes not just the application, it also includes the Environmental
Report, also information about public meetings, meeting summaries, meeting notices, when these meetings will happen. We strive to keep this website updated as often as possible so that you can have that information available to you at all times.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, and Jill.

MS. CAVERLY: I was just going to add, if you picked up this brochure at the front desk, right here, the first underlined blue weblink is the Holtec website that we're maintaining. And if you click on that, you can see most of the application materials and meeting notices and so forth.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. We're going to take two more questions, then we're going to go to public comment. And I believe this is Susybelle.

MS. GOSSLEE: Thank you. I'm Susybelle Gosslee. And in the interest of a democratic society, you all had collected everyone's email address. Is it possible that you could email everyone here in a mass kind of email the location once the EIS is available? Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Susybelle. The NRC staff will contemplate that. And we have a question right here. Go ahead sir.
MR. BURNAM: Sure, good evening, my name is Lon Burnam and my process question is regarding the timing of these public meetings. I understand that over 30 legislators in New Mexico asked for a delay, in part because there's some question as to whether or not NRC actually has the legislative authority to acknowledge or accept or process this application, that in fact that legislation is pending.

So why now as opposed to next fall or next year, when it's actually a legal process?

MR. CAMERON: And I think the basic point is there's been requests for, I guess, an extension of the comment period and other things. And that's something that the NRC management is still contemplating, correct? John?

MR. MCKIRGAN: So if I could, John McKirgan again. You know, we have received requests for extensions. We evaluate those and we try to be responsive, but we also have commitments --

MR. CAMERON: Okay, can we possibly find out if they can turn the volume up? Okay, let's go to one last question, to you, sir. I would say talk to them after the meeting. That's a substantive question, we're not going to get into it, okay, at this point. We're not going to be able to. We're not
going to, story over. Go ahead.

MR. ALDA: How are you all doing, I'm Bob Alda. Been a resident all along. One thing I was wanting to keep in consideration in the area that you're planning on building the facility is a real heavy area of fracking in the oil field business, and it's a very hot topic right now, the damages done by, one way or the other, and it hasn't ever been decided.

And the fracking is done very close to where your facilities could be built. And I thought we've already had one failure from one facility that we have here, and it's just something to keep in mind when you do, when you come up on deciding this. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, so let's go to public comment. And we apologize for the sound level. We have a lot of people commenting tonight. More so than I thought when I said we had a five-minute guideline. So it's going to be between four and five minutes, okay, so that we could get everybody one.

We're going to start with elected officials, because we believe that you should know what your elected officials think about this project. And then we're going to go into the rest of the people that signed up. And I'm going to go, I'm going to
give a preview of three or four names, so that people
know when they're going to be called.

And we're going to start with Mayor Cobb, who's the mayor of Hobbs. Then we're going to Senator, State Senator Caroll Leavell. And then to Senator Gay Kernan. So this is the Mayor. Thanks, Mayor.

Is that working? That's not working either.

MR. COBB: The Chairman of the County Commission is over here. It will work next time, I can promise you.

Thank you, good evening, members of the NRC and the Southwest Research Institute, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Lea County and Hobbs. My name is Sam Cobb, I am currently serving in my second term as Mayor of Hobbs. In addition, I have served as a member of the energy, Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, ELEA, Board of Directors for a number of years during my service as Mayor.

My first introduction into the nuclear fuel cycle and the nuclear industry was as a Board member of the Economic Development Corporation of the county. This nonprofit public-private sector organization was the lead entity on the GNET
(phonetic) project and the successful siting of the URENCO facility. I might add that the URENCO project has had a tremendous positive impact on the economy of our county.

In addition, the company and its employees have and continue to make substantial positive impacts on the quality of life in all of the communities that make up Lea County. I believe that Holtec and its employees have the same goals, if it's allowed to become a member of our community.

Consolidated interim storage and the Holtec design, in my opinion and in the opinion of many experts in the nuclear field, provides several key elements that must be considered in the licensing process. The canisters must prove to be safe from a wide variety of scenarios during transportation to the interim storage site. The Holtec system provides those safeguards.

The storage site itself should be away from population centers in a stable geologic environment. The ELEA site provides that.

The design of the facility should provide for the storage canisters to be below ground to create the least amount of potential exposure to the canisters from any type of surface-related damage,
whether it be natural or manmade. The Holtec
underground system provides those safeguards.

Consolidated interim storage should
provide for savings to the American taxpayer, as
opposed to the current systems in place. The Holtec
proposal provides that.

The communities that agree to be part of
the national solution to the storage of spent fuel
should be compensated for their willingness to do so.
The agreement between Holtec and ELEA provides for a
longterm revenue stream for those communities.

In closing, I would like to add for the
record that the Hobbs City Commission has supported
the ELEA Holtec project from its inception. Thank you
for coming to our community. I look forward to
further discussions as we move this nationally
important issue in the nuclear fuel cycle to a proper
solution.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor.
And we're working on getting the microphones fixed.
It may be that they just need new batteries. And
let's see if this one works. And this is Senator
Leavell.

SENATOR LEAVELL: How's this? Again?
Good evening, everyone, I'm State Senator Carroll
Leavell. My district includes the WIPP facility, URENCO, and the proposed consolidated interim storage facility which is the focus of tonight's scoping comments.

Also my district includes south Hobbs, Eunice, Jal, and covers the south part of Carlsbad, Loving, Malaga, and south Eddy County. It's a very large geographic area.

Through my 20 years in the Senate, I have been very active with the opening of WIPP, with the licensing and operation of URENCO. Both of these projects have been great low cost projects for southeastern New Mexico. We're very nationalistic about both of these projects in that it is serving the country enormously by the cleaning up of the complex.

And URENCO is providing enriched uranium for our power plants, which before URENCO, almost all of it was being imported from foreign countries. These two projects have served to stabilize our economy from the ups and downs of the extractive industries, the oil and gas industry.

I have served on the Radioactive and Hazardous Material Committee of the legislature since entering the legislature in 1979. This committee is charged with overseeing nuclear activities in the
state. Since 2012, every year we have been updated by the Eddy-LEA Alliance and watched the progress of the project.

I have worked very closely with the Alliance on this project and know that they have vetted safety number one. It's first. I believe and I agree that allying with Holtec is the very best decision they could have made. Holtec is the only US-based supplier of nuclear storage equipment to the industry, and we think they are the best in the world in what they do.

Since 2012, with the Blue Ribbon Commissions, America's nuclear future again is elevated to the dramatic need for consolidated interim storage in this country. The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance realize that they have a piece of the isolated desert property with very low seismic activity that would be ideal for a consolidated interim storage facility.

It has been characterized through the GNET proposal and had utilities close by. It has rail and rail water and other utilities within five to ten miles. I'll close with saying that in the 2016 session of the legislature, a memorial was passed in each house by over 70% supporting Eddy-Lea Holtec.
We have a resolution of support from out
towns and counties, as well as a strong letter of
support from the Governor and the Secretary.

Mr. Chairman, the Holtec transportation
cask is virtually indestructible, and the rail system
is the least risky form of transportation. The
subservice system Holtec uses is safe, the best, and
most secure system in the world. With the delay in
reporting interim storage has come again, and I
strongly support this project. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Senator
Leavell. And before we ask Senator Gay Kernan to come
up, I just want to recognize that Representative Steve
Pearce also has a staff member here, Bernadette
Granger. There's Bernadette right there, and thank
you, thank the Representative for being here.

Let's go to Senator Kernan. And can you
put that up there and see if it's going to work.

SENATOR KERNAN: Can everyone hear with
this? Very good. Good evening, I'm State Senator Gay
Kernan, and I've followed the work of the Eddy-Lea
project since entering the Senate in 2003. My
district includes North Hobbs, a portion of North Lea
County, Artesia in the northeaster part of Eddy
County.
During my time in the legislature, I have been involved with the siting and development of the URENCO facility, and I'm a strong supporter of WIPP, which is also close to my district. These two operations have helped immensely in stabilizing the economic ups and downs of our oil and gas and potash industries.

I have served also on the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee for many years, and we are responsible for the oversight of the nuclear industry, such as Los Alamos national labs, Sandia national labs, and the WIPP site.

When the Blue Ribbon Commission recommended interim storage and the Eddy-Lea Alliance decided to explore the possibility of siting the facility in southeast New Mexico, I followed the work of the Alliance as the members have vetted potential manufacturers, evaluated the site, and determined whether the safe transportation of the material to our area is possible.

I'm convinced that it is now time for the NRC to begin its work in making the determination whether the construction of such a facility is feasible in southeast New Mexico. We know that the HI-STORM UMAX, or Holtec International storage module,
is currently being used successfully in a highly congested area in a California nuclear generating plant.

How much better for the storage of this material to be in an area away from our cities and towns, including Eunice, New Mexico. Therefore, I encourage the Commission to consider the location of the Eddy-Lea site versus sites that would be central to a population center. It appears that this should be a high priority goal of the Commission.

Sandia Laboratory, national laboratory, has conducted a preliminary testing for the safe transport of the material by rail. I know that currently the US Department of Transportation coordinates with the NRC in the transportation of nuclear material. It regulates carriers and establishes standards for the routes that will be used.

I am confident that the Commission will carefully consider the impact of transporting the material to southeast New Mexico, just as it has for other nuclear materials entering and leaving our area currently. The Eddy-Lea site is of course desert, 35 miles from population centers, has no water impacts, and is protected by 2000 feet of salt below it.
We have a nuclear workforce in this area and communities that have accepted the presence of the nuclear-related facilities. I stand in support of moving and determining, based on scientific evidence, whether the proposed Eddy-Lea site is a safe and appropriate location for the interim storage of spent fuel that has been generated across our country in the production of nuclear power. Thank you for this opportunity.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Senator. And thank you for helping us out with the microphones. We're going to hear now from two members of the New Mexico House of Representatives. And the first one is David Gallegos. And then we're going to hear from Larry Scott.

REPRESENTATIVE GALLEGOS: Good evening and thank you. I also want to thank you for coming to Lea County. I heard a lot of good detail here tonight, and I actually appreciate the public coming out also. I think all four of us are part of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee. So in the interims, let me stop and go backwards. I was voted in in '12, so in 2013 was my first year in the legislature. My area covers District 61, which is part of Lovington, south side of Hobbs, all of Eunice
and all of Jal. So I've got a smaller area than the senators have, but it's still of importance to us.

Since being on the legislature, we have been in those committee meetings trying to understand everything from, like Senator Kernan said, Los Alamos down to the WIPP site and everything URENCO does. I did get some new information that I did not catch before in some of those meetings.

And one was the canister had been deemed safe, and I appreciate that, because I've had a lot of discussion with the community on the safety aspects of this. I totally believe that what you guys did was right by Eunice, I live in Eunice, when URENCO came to town. We are looking to diversify our state. We love oil and gas, but as it takes its hills and valleys, it seems to disrupt our lives.

So what URENCO did was give us stability. And I truly believe that this Holtec operation will give us another piece of that puzzle that will level out our playing field here for New Mexico.

Just really quickly, and a lot of good detail was already given, we call ourselves the Energyplex for multiple reasons, but we want to diversify that. On the 19th, the Lieutenant Governor is sending a contingency, myself included, to China to
try to find some opportunities to diversify New Mexico, to bring businesses back into New Mexico, so that we can take those peaks and valleys out.

We have one right here. And I truly believe that you guys will do your due diligence out there on the site tomorrow and from here on out, to look at the opportunities that we have to make the right decision for this county and for both counties.

But I truly stand behind Holtec's process. Everything that I've heard about it, they've put a lot of effort and time into the safety aspect and the longevity of it. So they're going into different phases so they have some time to make sure everything continues, not just a one-time drop in the ground and be gone.

I like the option there, having the environmental monitoring and preparedness. They've given us really good detail on that, I feel secure in it.

The last thing I wanted to tell you before Representative Scott comes up here is New Mexico's looking for a better-than-average salary. Holtec has it. We're looking for very good benefits for our citizens, Holtec does that.

Being a resident of Eunice, I totally
believe that URENCO was the right thing to do, and I'm looking forward to your decision on allowing, I think I said URENCO was the right thing to do. But allowing Holtec to go forward with this application, because I think that's the next step for us in Lea County. So thank you for your time.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Representative Gallegos. And now we're going to hear from Representative Scott, and then we're going to go to some of the Lea County commissioners, Ron Black, Rebecca Long, and Jonathan Sena. This is Representative Scott.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT: Good evening, members of the NRC, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Larry Scott, and I am a state representative from District 62, which is Hobbs in Lea County. I serve on the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Interim Committee. And in that capacity, I've heard this proposal in several different settings, and have come to develop a couple of opinions with regard to Holtec's application.

It is my opinion that the safety and environmental review will not be conducted on an ad hoc basis and will in fact be extremely thorough. Further, it is my understanding that the safe
transport of this material will be a part of that safety review.

I've heard concerns, both tonight and from previous presentations, that oil and gas could be impacted by this facility. I am a 40-year oil and gas producer, Lea and Eddy counties. I believe that the area under consideration is geologically stable.

And I further believe that at the depths that this material will be stored versus the depths that oil and gas is typically encountered in that vicinity, that there could be virtually no, absolutely no interaction.

The material in question is spent nuclear fuel rods. These are currently being stored on or near facilities that are generating the electric power. These facilities were developed with little or no consideration for both safety or environmental concerns with regard to storage. A facility specifically designed to take safety and environmental considerations into concern looks to me like a much better and more reasonable proposal.

I've heard concerns from many that temporary storage need not be developed until some permanent storage solution is developed. That process has been ongoing for years.
I am absolutely of the opinion that a permanent solution needs to be developed, but I also believe that with changes in technology and economics, this material could be recyclable at some time in the future, leaving this facility the ability recover those spent rods, and at some point use them for economic benefit.

The economic benefits to the communities of Lea and Eddy County has already been mentioned. We're discussing several billion dollars of initial investment, along with many longterm, high-paying jobs after the facility is finished.

I believe that the project should be evaluated on the basis of science, not speculation, conjecture, or emotion. And if the science indicates that this project can move forward in an environmentally sensitive and safe manner, I would stand in full support. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Representative Scott. And now we have Ron Black, who's Chair of the Lea County Board of Commissioner. Ron.

MR. BLACK: My name is Ron Black. I am a retired educator and currently Chairman of the Lea County Commission and also serve on the Board of
Trustees at New Mexico Junior College. I'd like to thank the NRC for being here tonight and the diligence that you've shown in evaluating this proposal.

I have lived in Lea County for 52 years and raised three children here. I still have one child over here, along with two granddaughters and a great-granddaughter. And I mention this because I love Lea County. It has been my home for all of my adult life. If is the home of my children, and will continue to be.

So if I thought there was the slightest bit of danger associated with this project, I would be the first one in line to oppose it.

I recognize that protesters who have come from other parts of the state, other parts of the nation will probably never change their mind, but I do feel that the strong majority of the people in Lea County support this project. People in Lea County have been working with hazardous materials all their life and are very safety conscious.

I did a little research and discovered that in 2016, that was the last year I could find statistics, there were 2.3 billion workforce fatalities worldwide. The United States has a much better record because we have much higher safety
standards, but we still had 5,190 people died in workforce accidents, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

And here in Lea County, it's much too common we, if you live here a long time, we know we've had people, friends and neighbors of ours who have died in workforce accidents.

But in the nuclear industry, which is far and away the most highly regulated and safety-conscious of all the industries, I could find only fatality on record. In 1964, Robert Peabody who worked at the Wood River in Rhode Island made a mistake that cost him his life.

There have been a relatively small number of people that have died after radiation exposure, but in every case I could find, they were hospital patients receiving radiation treatments that were accidentally given an overdose.

You know, there have been concerns expressed about the transportation of nuclear waste to the Holtec site. If you stop and think about it, the worst possible thing that could happen, even though it's highly unlikely, the worst possible thing that could happen would be a train wreck.

But the casks that are being used to
transport this product have been subjected to tests far in excess of any stress that they might receive in the worst train wreck. They've been lifted by a crane high under the earth and dropped onto a sharp steel spike about three feet high.

They've also, the Swiss Government actually required them to be shot with a missile, a direct hit with a missile, before they'd be approved. In none of these cases did a single bit of radiation escape the cask.

And certainly the distress of being hit, a direct hit with a missile and being dropped from a distance on a steel spike would be more stressful than you could get even in the worst possible train accident, which is unlikely to begin with.

You know, the nuclear industry is already established here in southeastern New Mexico with WIPP and URENCO. Opening an interim storage site will not only bring a strong and stable industry that won't be subject to the fluctuations of the oil and gas industry, but it will also resolve a problem that has existed for many years and will provide a much safer and cost-efficient means of storing the spent fuel.

I would encourage every one of you to do the same thing I did and research this issue for
yourself. And I think you'll find that this proposal has merit and it will be a big benefit to southeastern New Mexico. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chairman Black. Rebecca Long is the Vice Chair for the County Commissioners, and she's going to come up. And then we're going to hear from Jonathan Sena. Rebecca.

MS. LONG: Thank you. Good evening, I am Rebecca Long, Vice Chair for the County Commission, as you just said. I've had a few calls about the safety of shipping the nuclear material, and I want to just kind of give a few things on that.

There are approximately six to eight shipments of nuclear material trucked to the WIPP site each week. There have been approximately 12,000 shipments covering 14 million miles with no problems. Across our country, there have been approximately 1300 shipments of nuclear material by rail with no problems.

Our Navy has shipped spent fuel by rail approximately 850 times, for a total of 1.6 million miles with no problems.

I grew up in Lea County, and I am proud to live here. I plan to be here the rest of my life, and
I have complete confidence that this site will be safe. I appreciate you all being here this evening.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much, Rebecca. And Jonathan. Yes, yes.

COMMISSIONER SENA: Well, good evening. I am so grateful the NRC, Holtec, and everybody who came tonight to voice their opinions on this important issue. My name is Jonathan Sena, and I am a county commissioner here in District 4. I'm also a youth director here in Lea County. I work with kids, I work with young people.

Before serving on the County Commission, I served for almost nine years on the Hobbs City Commission. I've lived in Hobbs since 1986, and my family has lived in New Mexico for almost 400 years. We are vested in this state. New Mexico is my home and Hobbs is my home. I went to grade school here, I graduated from college here, I was married here.

I would only want businesses and projects to come into Lea County that are good for our communities and for families here. I believe Holtec is one of those companies. They're a company using safe technology, and they provide jobs that pay well to employees.

You see, to understand Hobbs, to
understand Lea County, is to understand that we are an energy-based economy. Oil, gas, nuclear energy, such as has been the case with URENCO, solar, and wind energy are massive parts of our everyday lives. I think young people and students and people in churches and city clubs can probably tell you the price of a barrel of oil of any given day.

After learning more about this issue and learning more about the science that's involved with Holtec's project, I believe this will be a positive, safe project for our community. I believe Holtec will do an extraordinary job, and I welcome Holtec and their project to Lea County. I definitely support the Holtec project. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much, Jonathan.

And we realize that there was one part of Lon's question that we didn't address, which was the extra meetings. And so, John McKirgan is going to just acknowledge that and talk to that.

John?

MR. McKIRGAN: So, yes, thank you, Chip. I did want to acknowledge that as was mentioned there has been a fair bit of correspondence to the NRC on these meetings, their location and the
duration of the scoping meeting. I wanted to share with everyone that the NRC takes this correspondence very seriously. My organization together with Cinthya's organization reviews each of these and we evaluate each of these requests very seriously. And they come from a number of stakeholders. And as we do continue to receive this correspondence, we will evaluate these requests on their merits and try to respond appropriately.

And all of these documents: the incoming correspondence and our responses, are all being made available on the public web site so that you all can see what's going on and the dialogue that is occurring on these meetings. And so I just wanted to make sure I shared that with you all because there has been a great deal of interest and correspondence on these meetings. So I wanted to make sure we had that process clarification, and that I'm sure will continue and we'll continue to respond to this as they go forward.

MR. BURNAM: Chair, thank you for that information, but it is still non-responsive to my question about the timing of these public meetings and whether or not they are duly in order process-wise. So please don't insult me by pretending that you
answered my question. It's great information. I'm
glad you shared that information. You're still not
responsive to my question, and the question is will
you litigate and inform --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay, Lon. Thank you.

We're going to go to Marlene Boyden, Greg
Richards, and Finn Smith. Do we have Marlene Boyden?
If I'm pronouncing it correctly, but I think here she
is, correct?

MS. BOYDEN: Yes.

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MS. BOYDEN: Thank you to the facilitator
and members of the Commission and ladies and
gentlemen.

I am opposed to Holtec's application for
several reasons: First of all, I am a teacher. I
love kids, I am passionate about kids, and I don't
think this is good for the kids. I want the kids to
have good lives and full lives and healthy and happy
lives.

And this is geologically unsound. This is
-- there are sinkholes in Carlsbad, there are
underground caves. It's just not an appropriate idea.
It's -- in Roswell there are bottomless lakes.
Literature says that this kind of unproven storage should not be near bottomless lakes and yet we're being told that it's safe. If it's so safe, why is Yucca Mountain sending it away? If it's so safe, why won't they keep it where it's generated?

(Appause.)

MS. BOYDEN: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marlene. And did I get --

MS. BOYDEN: Melanie.

MEMBER BROWN: Melanie? Sorry about that.

Thanks, Melanie.

Greg Richards?

(No audible response.)

MR. CAMERON: Finn Smith? Is Finn here?

Here's Finn.

MR. SMITH: I'll see if I can get this close enough. Can everybody hear me okay? We'll try this out.

Good evening, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Finn Smith. I'm president of a local business here since nineteen-forty -- well, I've been president since 1943. The business has been in existence since 1943. That's Watson Truck & Supply. I also serve as board chair
for the Yucca Mountain Development Corporation of Lea County.

At EDC we are a county-wide partnership of businesses, local governments and educational institutions. Our mission is to expand and diversify Lea County's economy. The EDC and our members have long embraced advanced technologies and projects involving the nuclear industry as part of our efforts to grow the New Mexico EnergyPlex and to diversity Lea County's energy sector.

The EDC has worked side by side with several entities such as URENCO seeking to site nuclear sector facilities here in Lea County. Those companies have undergone rigorous reviews similar to this process that we're witnessing tonight and they have proven to be excellent corporate citizens.

We are confident that the NRC with its in-depth study will thoroughly evaluate the proposed technology as it relates to suitability for the proposed use and consider the term of its intended use here. We believe that this geographic region is well-suited for such a facility. Under the right conditions of suitability, appropriate technology, environmental monitoring and preparedness, as well as economic value we would welcome this industry to our
Holtec is well respected within the industry. They provide on-site dry storage for approximately 60 percent of U.S. nuclear units and possess strong expertise in used nuclear fuel storage. The safety and security of their systems is unmatched.

Our focus at ED primarily concerns the economic benefits to the community, so I'll limit my remarks to focus on how this impacts our economy.

The Holtec facility will itself provide approximately 100 construction jobs for a period of 10 years as well as 100 long-term facility operations jobs. Similar to other nuclear facilities within Southeast New Mexico, these jobs will be quality jobs paying an average salary of approximately $70,000 a year as well as good benefits. Most of these jobs will require technological skills. Folks, more quality jobs in Hobbs is great for all of our kids. It keeps them here. It keeps them from migrating to other areas, seeking out better employment opportunities.

The Holtec Training Center of Excellence that is also envisioned as part of this project will provide additional jobs and economic benefits to area businesses. It is likely that the manufacturing of
the carbon steel structures will also be located here as well generating additional jobs.

Perhaps the greatest economic benefit to Hobbs and Lea County will be the tremendous property tax revenue generated by this $2.4 billion facility. Our K through 12 schools as well as our New Mexico Junior College will be the main beneficiaries of this. They're dependent upon these property tax collections. Greatly increased educational funding will help further elevate the quality of our schools. Other taxing jurisdictions within the ELEA Alliance such as Lea County and the City of Hobbs will also benefit from a large degree from the property taxes and gross receipts tax revenues resulting in substantially more resources available to fund community services.

A critical advantage of the Holtec site, in our view, which is proposed as you know tonight, to be on the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance site in Lea County, New Mexico, roughly 35 miles west of Hobbs versus the other proposed site which is proposed by Waste Control Specialties just over the Texas border near Eunice, New Mexico -- most of the revenues from the Holtec site will directly impact Lea County and New Mexico to support both Lea and Eddy County schools as well as their governments. That would not be case with the
Waste Control Specialists site temporarily sited for just across the Texas border.

In closing, we would appreciate your recognition of the tremendous economic and tax revenue benefits to Lea and Eddy County schools and governments associated with Holtec's facility, however, the health, safety and welfare of New Mexico citizens affected by the siting of this project are of utmost concern.

Having observed the rigor of the NRC's process in permitting the URENCO site we respect the thoroughness of your approach in addressing those questions by reviewing the proposed facility, its technology and appropriateness to Lea County. Thank you for your time and your attention.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Finn. We're going to go to Joy Russell next and then Steve Schafersman, Joni Arends, Melanie Snyder and Carol Levine.

This is Joy Russell.

MS. RUSSELL: Good evening. My name is Joy Russell and I'm the Vice President of Business Development and Communications for Holtec International. I want to thank you to the NRC for being here to give Holtec the opportunity to meet with
you to provide information. We commit to the NRC that
we provide timely and good quality responses to any
questions that you ask of us.

I want to also thank the community, all of
the elected officials that are here and all the
members of the public for giving us an opportunity to
establish our project with you in this area. We
invite you to visit us at our booth in the back. My
colleagues are here to answer any questions that you
have. We're very transparent and we'll answer any
questions that you have of us.

Holtec International is a technology
company. At our core spent fuel storage is what we've
always done and what we continue to do. For 32 years
we've been storing spent nuclear fuel safely and
securely not only in the United States, but around the
world.

We are an American company. We are owned
by an American. We manufacture here in the United
States. We have three manufacturing centers of
excellence currently in the United States: one in
Pittsburgh, one in Southern Ohio, and our newest one
which we just opened last year in November in Camden,
New Jersey. We're very proud of our record of safety
at our factories and we look forward to establishing
additional manufacturing capabilities here in New Mexico.

I'm proud to say that we have an impeccable safety record with our equipment. We've never had an issue with any of our equipment from a safety perspective, both during the deployment of the equipment and also during the storage of the equipment.

The members of the ELEA Alliance in 2013 asked us to be their partners. They carefully vetted our equipment, as many of you have heard tonight, to ensure that it is indeed the safest equipment that's possible for storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Holtec has applied for the license to operate the facility with our partners ELEA. We commit to you hire, train and educate individuals from this area to construct the facility as well as work at the facility.

Our goal is to establish a temporary, safe and secure facility at the same time working to push the Federal Government for their obligation to take final possession of the spent nuclear fuel. We are fully committed to this being a temporary facility, the safest facility possible by storing the used nuclear fuel in a below-grade configuration, keeping
it from potential manmade or terrorist attacks.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to
address you, and again we commit to being good
stewards of the environment and good neighbors to the
community. Again thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Joy.

And this is Steve, Steve Schafersman.

MR. SCHAFERSMAN: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for your attention to this
important issue.

As you know, I am a working consulting
scientist in the petroleum and environmental
industries. I have studied the containment of
hazardous wastes in the past. I visited superfund
sites and I have taught courses in environmental
geology, environmental science and environmental law.

As with many people in this room I want to
see the nuclear waste transported, but one time to a
final repository. This repository would be in igneous
rock that is non-porous and non-permeable. The risks
of transportation are not zero. There's a risk. The
risks are too high to move it twice. There is -- you
can do risky things if the benefits are greater than
the risks. In this case moving all this fuel to a
final resting place would be a benefit that would be
appropriate.

The site that is proposed here, the Holtec site, is not a good site because, for number one, the final resting place of any nuclear waste should be isolation. And this site is designed to be accessible so it will be accessible to the people who run it and will also be accessible to proliferation and to terrorists.

There are other risks here. If the fuel is moved here, this will be the final resting place. It will not be moved again for reasons that you know. There will be no motivation from the states who have already gotten rid of their waste to do it again. How would this be paid? The cost would be in billions of dollars. Also, the money in the fund to handle waste will be depleted.

Now I want to --

MR. CAMERON: Steve, can I interrupt you? And I apologize, but there's an emergency situation for someone. There's a black Dodge Avenger parked in a fire lane outside. I guess the license is PLH687. But they're going to tow it away if you don't go out and get it. So I don't know if you're here, but get your car out of there or else it won't be there. It will be at the impound lot. But I guess we're have
So, Steve, continue, please.

MR. SCHAFERSMAN: Thank you, Chip.

Now one issue that came up; and I mentioned this before and so did several of my friends, is the location of soluble rocks beneath the ground at this site. These are limestones and salt. In West Texas there is considerable interest in analyzing the problems there. There is subsidence, sinkholes and other formations that have happened because of this.

And I want to emphasize right now that the geometrical conditions in West Texas and here in Eastern New Mexico where we are are essentially identical. Below the proposed site, the ELEA site, there are soluble limestones and salt. So similar things can happen. Other things that cause this are natural flow of fresh water and oil and gas production for reasons I'm not going to take the time to get into.

Now two scientists from Southern Methodist University studied this. They used radar from new satellites that have been recently put up and they did spatial studies using radar interferometry and they calculated that the ground has subsided. It will be
absolutely vital that the proposal for this site study -- do the study; perhaps they could hire the same two scientists to do this, because it's likely there has been subsidence.

The subsidence is caused by oil field water extraction or field hydrocarbon extraction by the pumping in of water to keep the pressure up in the reservoirs which can get loose from pipes from -- excuse me, well casings that are not properly developed and can dissolve the salt. We are very close here to the Capitan Reef trend. That is the site as -- which is known for its karst topography.

Now I have given you a handout that has links to these papers, the two professional papers published in scientific journals and some popular papers that discuss this. This is a significant geo-hazard. The authors say this is a geo-hazard that can be studied by this data which is freely available to the public. Human activities and natural activities can cause this -- can cause problems.

So this a significant situation. And since, as I said, the geology in West Texas and -- where this is occurring now, and Eastern New Mexico is identical. So please be aware of this problem. Thank you very much.
MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Steve.

And I just want to tell you that Steve has given the NRC three pages of cites on documents about what he was talking about and with links to the documents, and that is going to be a public document and you'll be eventually able to see that.

And, Joni?

MS. ARENDS: Hi.

MR. CAMERON: Hi, how are you doing?

MS. ARENDS: Good. I haven't seen you for a couple years.

MR. CAMERON: Yes. Yes, it's been awhile. And I don't know if anybody wants -- if you want to say what area you're from, you can do that. You don't have to, but I'll just mention that now. This is Joni Arends.

MS. ARENDS: Hi. Good evening. My name is Joni Arends and I am the co-founder and Executive Director of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I have three comments: The first one is that I have a petition that was signed by residents of Santa Fe that I would like to submit to the record,
but I would like for the NRC to sign a receipt for this, if you would. And I don't know who would do that. We're concerned about public comments being lost, so a receipt is one way that we can ensure that the signatures are put into the record.

Our second comment is that we really need an email address similar to the Texas project. People are really struggling to get through the federal rulemaking web site process to be able to submit comments, so we would really like a direct email to Ms. May -- Ms. Ma with the NRC to ease the process to submit commits.

Number three is about the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement. So I reviewed the Emergency Response Plan and in Appendix B to the Emergency Response Plan, or Appendix C, excuse me, Facility Emergency Action Levels. In column No. 1 it talks about the incidents, which are high winds and tornados, winter storms, range fires, spills, releases, fire, explosion, airplane crash, government or commercial vehicle crash, site intrusion, bomb threat, radioactive plume. I would add to this list sinkholes, subsidence, dissolution of the salt formation.

The second column calls these unusual
events. It says that they're under development. I believe Holtec should provide a complete Emergency Response Plan that includes the unusual events, complete this section, this Appendix C before the NRC can adequately move forward with an Environmental Impact Statement.

And for the list here these are not unusual events. These are normal events at this point given that we've had the explosion at WIPP, that we've had a radioactive plume, we've had fires, we'd have spills and releases. So this needs to be changed from unusual events to normal events so that we understand what the Holtec's Emergency Response Plan would be to respond to that.

So those are my comments and I thank folks for being here.

MR. CAMERON: Joni, thank you. Thank you for that.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: And we do have a little bit more information about the email list, and I'm going to ask Cinthya just to update us on that at this point.

MS. ROMAN: Hello. So I signed both receipts.
Regarding your request for an email, we were using the NRC standard process of regulation.gov, but we are going to comply with your request and we will have an email address and we will issue a Federal Register notice with that information.

MS. ARENDS: Okay. Terrific. And so I just want to have another comment that because this room is so large, it's very hard to see you all if we're sitting in the back. So it would be really helpful if you could stand up while you're talking so that everybody could see you. Thank you.

MS. ROMAN: Thanks.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Good suggestion, Joni.

Melanie, are you ready? This is Melanie Snyder and then we're going to go to Carol Levine.

MS. SNYDER: I only have a question. I didn't realize there were going to be so many commenters. So I'll save my comments for --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay. So you'll file some written comments? And that -- Melanie, why don't you just tell them -- I think your organization is interesting. Why don't you just tell them where you're from?
MS. SNYDER: I'm Melanie Snyder from the Western Interstate Energy Board and I am the High-Level Radioactive Waste Program Manager. We focus on transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the West.

MR. CAMERON: And for those of you who don't know about the Western Interstate Energy Board, you might be interested in going onto their web site and seeing what they do.

Carol Levine, Lisa Hardison, Alfred Medina, Nick Maxwell. This is Carol.

MS. LEVINE: This is Carol, yes. This is Carol Levine and I'm not with any group really, and it's difficult to stand up and not be really nervous.

So we've heard from people who are really used to speaking and I think that makes a difference because we appreciate what you've said, but it comes across very smoothly whereas those of us who are unused to speaking sometimes don't come across quite so well.

I'm interested -- well, kind of a process statement. This meeting was kind of like the first time as far as I know that information was presented to the people who live here in Hobbs. And exactly on the same day that you're making available -- oh, I've
picked up lots and lots of material and I'm going to read it, but today is the day when we have to make comments.

And I would suggest that if something like this comes up again, that there be a little lead time so that perhaps the information could be made available at a meeting and there could be presentations by the governmental people and the business people. And then the people who live here could make comments maybe a few weeks later.

I understand that we can write comments as well, but sometimes hearing somebody else say something, it triggers something in our own minds and helps us understand things. So just reading things from the computer some -- maybe it's because I'm old, but just reading things on a computer doesn't have quite the same effect as hearing my neighbors speaking up. So that's a process thing.

I'm a retired school teacher and I also worked for the Department of the Interior, in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks, and I'm concerned with what is on the land that's going to be taken out. And I was glad to see that there will be an evaluation of the wildlife and cultural things that are on the sites. And these are important.
I know that here in Hobbs and Lea County it may not be very popular to say that, but especially as the weather is changing and it's getting drier and drier this is more stress on the wildlife and on the plants that do live here. We're a very special environment. I know the rest of the country doesn't think much of us. We think that we're a good place to bury nuclear waste that they don't want, but actually we are a special place. And I am glad that you're going to be doing that.

Also I was concerned -- another process point is that I appreciate that our legislators and all have received letters of support from the governmental agencies and the state and perhaps also in the country, but we've had a couple of elections recently here in Lea County and I didn't see anything on there for us to vote about. It seems like if you want to know what the attitude of the people living here is that that would have been a good time for us -- you know, maybe it wouldn't even be something that would decide it one way or the other, but it would have been a good time to collect information from the people who live here about what they felt like, and hopefully after they had already been given information to evaluate. That would have been a good
idea, I think.

And I thought it was very interesting about what Mr. Black said that he's very confident in the safety of Holtec because in the past the power plants and the nuclear things that were done without concern for safety or environmental issues by the government. And even here at WIPP we've had problems.

Now Mr. Black and I disagree about the next step. I feel if there have been so many problems, and really there's -- there have been a lot of nuclear problems at Hanford and at Rocky Flats. And there's already spent fuel underground at -- in California and the government put it where it was not a good place. They want to take it out now and send it to us.

There has been a lot of incidents where the government has not been good with nuclear. And I'm only afraid -- now I don't want to insult the Holtec people, but I am afraid that perhaps the same thing might happen. We were told WIPP was going to be safe. You have to keep it safe 10,000 years or more and kitty litter messed it up.

(Laughter.)

MS. SNYDER: It frightens me. And as a school teacher also I feel as Melanie does, nuclear is
not just an explosion from a train wreck. Nuclear affects generations. It changes genes. It's just the worst possible thing as far as I'm concerned.

MR. CAMERON: Could you just sum up for us?

MS. SNYDER: Thank you. I guess that's it. I really didn't write it down.

MR. CAMERON: And that was --

MS. SNYDER: Thank you so much.

MR. CAMERON: -- articulate as any practiced speaker.

MS. SNYDER: But I'm shaking.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I hope Porter is not upset about the kitty litter out there. Porter's a wonderful dog that we have in the audience.

But at any rate, Lisa, Lisa Hardison, and then Alfred Medina and Nick Maxwell. this is Lisa.

MS. HARDISON: Members of the NRC, thank you so much for your investment of time tonight to conduct this meeting. We appreciate you being here. My name is Lisa Hardison. I'm the Manager of Communications and Public Relations at URENCO USA.

As a business that is part of the nuclear fuel cycle we are supportive of other businesses that
are looking to continue to diversify the industry as well as the local economy. We have found a welcoming home here in Lea County as well as a qualified and educated workforce.

URENCO USA is regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and is aware of the process during licensure, construction and operation. We can attest that the oversight provided by the NRC ensures that safety is the highest consideration during every stage of the process. This same process is the one that Holtec is currently following which will likewise ensure the safety and security of their project. Our company is proud to be part of the EnergyPlex and we look forward to the continued growth of the energy sector here in our community. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Lisa. And Alfred Medina?

(No audible response.)

MR. CAMERON: Nick Maxwell?

MR. MAXWELL: My name is Nick Maxwell. I am one of the people of Lea County in opposition of this project proposal by Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, LLC and Holtec International.

My concern with this project begins with Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, LLC and the way they handled
their public meetings. Although this project was
touted as a consent-based project, we have a law in
the state called the Open Meetings Act that requires
public bodies, which Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, LLC is
one of, to take minutes of their meetings, to give
reasonable notice of their meetings to the public, and
to determine annually what that reasonable notice will
be.

For many consecutive years Eddy-Lea Energy
Alliance, LLC did not determine what reasonable notice
was for a public meeting. Several consecutive years.

There are years worth of minutes missing.
I have asked for the inspection of minutes that are
not being provided to me presumably because they've
been misplaced or lost.

There have been meetings held where
actions were taken by the board that are questionably
invalid at this time because of the way the notice was
done. And it's my opinion that in the future these
claims will be brought forward and that these claims
will be substantial.

I would end with also giving you
consideration that I will submit in writing later on
before the comment period expires regarding the
immense weight the facility will put on the land here.
I do not consent to the project and I believe -- I heard this last night and I think it really rings true: How many people would have boarded the Titanic had they known? They were told it was safe.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Nick.

And I'll just call Alfred again. Alfred Medina?

(No audible response.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's go to Helen Houston, Myriah Gomez -- and I would like the Shaughnessys to come up, Eileen and then her husband. So let's go to Helen Houston.

Helen Houston? Here she is.

MS. HOUSTON: Good evening. My name is Helen Houston and I'm here to actually not give my consent for bringing the high-level nuclear waste to Hobbs.

I was born and raised here and this is a great community, but our community is small. We have URENCO. URENCO is successful. We support URENCO. But we also have WIPP and we did have an incident with WIPP and the wind was blowing and the public wasn't
notified the way it should have been. So we've had the good and we've had the bad.

So I'm asking you to reconsider the location, to be careful where you place this nuclear waste storage facility. I have no idea what a spin rod is. I don't know the danger of a spin rod if an accident should happen. Maybe we -- you can share that with us, the dangers -- what exactly is a spin rod?

We have to think about our food supply, our farmers, our home gardens in case there is an accident. He said there's no such thing as zero risk. I hear everyone say I believe, I believe. Mr. Black is the only one that said he was confident, but everyone else had a belief or a thought about it. So there is some risk, some risk in transportation. What if a train wreck happened? What would happen? I hear you say that it's very safe, that if you hit it with a bomb and nothing would happen.

PARTICIPANT: Speak into the mic.

MS. HOUSTON: Oh, I'm so sorry. Okay. And so we need to think about our water supply, the health of our children, of our parents, of our loved ones. Everyone know that radiation brings cancer. I'm sure that someone in this room have lost a loved
one to cancer. Someone in this room has a loved one suffering with cancer, with lupus, with thyroid disease. All of this come from the radiation.

And someone mentioned terrorists. How can we guarantee no terrorist attack? How can we guarantee anything for our community? This community again I would say is very, very small. I'm all for economic development, but I think this location -- we've done our share for our country. We have URENCO and we have WIPP. We don't need another nuclear waste storage facility here, in my opinion, not in my grandchildren's backyard. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Helen. Thank you.

This is Myrriah, Myrriah Gomez, and then we'll go to Eileen Shaughnessy and Brendan Shaughnessy.

DR. GOMEZ: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Go ahead.

DR. GOMEZ: As part of the scoping process you're here to consider safety and environment. As a stakeholder in this project I want to briefly address both.

My name is Myrriah Gomez. I'm a professor
at the University of New Mexico. My forthcoming book focuses on the effects of the nuclear industrial complex on people of color in New Mexico, but tonight I am not here as a professor or a researcher. I am here as a lifelong resident of the State of New Mexico, born and raised in El Rancho, New Mexico in the Pojoaque Valley just 20 minutes from Los Alamos where Site Y of the Manhattan Project colonized the Pajarito Plateau in 1942 and began the nuclear legacy we are here to address tonight over 75 years later.

My great grandparents were removed from their ranch by eminent domain to house Site Y. Their land, like the other Hispano families and indigenous communities was never returned to them. My grandfather and his brothers worked as laborers on the project. They cleaned tools and were allowed to bring contaminated materials home. They all died of cancer. And today on May Day, International Workers Day, I recognize my abuelo Ramon Gomez as well as my cousin Ricky Gomez who died as a result of a nuclear accident at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Many people will say that New Mexico is a sacrifice zone. I do not believe in that term because in order to be a sacrifice zone the state must be -- must give up something it values for the sake of
something more important or worthy, but the U.S. has never valued New Mexico in this way especially not in the history of nuclear coloniality.

From Los Alamos to Trinity to Church Rock to Laguna Pueblo to Gas Buggy to WIPP we are an occupied place where accidents and incidents have significantly hurt people of color.

When you draft the EIS documents and you consider the evaluation of cumulative impacts that you examine the legacy of the nuclear industry in New Mexico. Our environment has been destroyed and New Mexicans have been made targets for environmental racism.

The proposed Holtec site is a destructive multinational corporation with offices in Ukraine, Africa, Asia and Arabia. The build environment of Mexico is a vulnerable location for this project tasked with taking on the nation's nuclear -- high-level nuclear waste. I have read the proposal. It is filled with holes and problematic ideas. While many people here support this project, I recognize the capitalist endeavor motivating these positions, whereas safety and environmental impact has become an afterthought for those same individuals.

Do not approve and advance this project.
The safety and environmental threats and consequences outweigh economic concerns.

Eddy and Lea County have a combined population of nearly 50 percent people of color. This proposal poses the threat of environmental racism and we need the NRC to act in the interest of environmental justice. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Do we have Eileen Shaughnessy?

(No audible response.)

MR. CAMERON: This doesn't look like Eileen Shaughnessy, but must be Brendan Shaughnessy. Are you going to speak for both of you?

MR. SHAUGHNESSY: We're actually siblings.

I'm not married to her.

MR. CAMERON: Oh, really? Well, we heard you last Wednesday and we --

MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Yes. Yes.

MR. CAMERON: -- were interested in what you said.

MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: So is Eileen going to come up after you, or are you going to --
MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Yes, I'll start.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Go ahead, Brendan.

MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Thank you. I do not consent to the risk of transporting our nation's highest-level nuclear waste, none of which New Mexicans benefitted from. This waste should stay where it's at, the communities benefitting from it coming up with solutions for the waste created there. The immense amount of risk of contamination of our lands, air and aquifers should be reason alone to rule out the transporting of waste across the country and through entire communities.

(Appause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Brendan.

And now we're going to hear from Eileen Shaughnessy. Then we're going to go to Rose Gardner, Kevin Kamps, and Lon Burnam.

MS. SHAUGHNESSY: Hello there. Good evening. My name is Eileen Shaughnessy. I'm not married to my brother, so no husband at all. Just want to clarify that.

So I am here with a group of folks with a Nuclear Issue Study Group from Albuquerque, New Mexico. I also teach at the University of New Mexico in the Sustainability Studies Program. And so I'm
just going to share a few brief comments. We just
drove five hours so I'm a little bit scattered.

But the first thing I want to say is that
this proposal is not sustainable. I teach
sustainability. I think about sustainability. It's
not a sustainable proposal. It's not safe and it's
not just.

And I want to -- I'm going to echo what I
know has already been spoken here today, but I'm
concerned that the NRC and ELEA is looking at this
area just north of the WIPP site as a sacrifice zone,
as a dumping ground and as a wasteland. And as Dr.
Gomez spoke so beautifully about, New Mexico has been
very unfairly burdened by the nuclear industrial
complex and I want to implore you to take that into
consideration as you do your environmental assessment.
Take into consideration the cumulative impact for this
particular corner of the country, because if you look
deploy into the full context of the last 70 years of
the history of nuclearism, New Mexico has been far,
far burdened, way beyond our fair share.

I want to let you know that the group that
I'm here with, the Nuclear Issue Study Group, we have
been working day after day to talk with folks around
New Mexico about this issue, and I'm here to report
that the majority of people that we are talking to around this state do not want this. They don't want this at all.

We just went to Gallup on Saturday. We talked to folks all day long. We went to the Keva Club Pow Wow on the University of New Mexico campus on Sunday. We've traveled to Los Alamos. We've traveled all around the state and we're seeing over and over again that people are against this. We don't want this. So I want you to hear loud and clear that the majority of people in New Mexico do not consent.

I know it's been mentioned already before, but the fact that this site is supposed to be sited just over 12 miles north of WIPP is of great concern for many reasons, but among them is the fact that WIPP on February 14th, 2014 experienced a release of radioactive materials which was in direct violation to WIPP's stated mission of starting clean and staying clean.

So my question to you is how would you assure the public that an accident would not happen when we have already seen an accident happen at a nuclear waste storage facility just 12 -- a little over 12 miles south of this proposed site? Because when comes to nuclear issues we all know it's going to
be 100 percent certainty because these are materials
that are going to be radioactive for half a million
years. And, yes, they can alter your DNA, your RNA,
they cause cancer, they cause birth defects, they
cause autoimmune issues. So this is no light issue.

I'm also very concerned that the
transportation of these materials would be happening
through many states in this country and I'm not seeing
hearings being held in many of the states and the
cities through which these materials would be
transported including Albuquerque where I live.

I know you've not released the transport
routes yet, but we can reasonably assume that you'll
be using the existing infrastructure and I want every
community that would be along these routes to have a
say in this issue because it would be going -- it
would be transported next to communities, next to
hospitals, next to elementary schools. And we know by
the NRC reports themselves that there is a routine
release of radiation. So 100 percent is no such thing
with this proposal.

And I also know that it's never been done
to stack two canisters on top of one another, so
there's many concerns about that. How will you assure
us that this endeavor which has never been done before
will not cause a release?

In addition, concerns about extreme weather events in a time of climate change when we can barely expect the same season after the next. What happens when we are currently in a wildfire season, a very intense drought? What happens if there's a wildfire in this surrounding area?

So one other point I want to say is that the group that I'm with, the Nuclear Issues Study Group, we recently traveled to Chicago and we met up with folks from around the country who -- many of them who live in reactor communities. So folks that are living on the East Coast or on the West Coast, San Onofre, Midwest, basically are living next to these waste sites.

MR. CAMERON: Eileen, could I ask you to just sum up for us, please?

MS. SHAUGHNESSY: Yes, I'm about to. And they're living in these -- next to this waste that would be potentially transported. And I want to let you know from firsthand from these communities they don't necessarily want to move it. And we are -- as concerned people, residents living here, we want to work with them and potentially you to create a more holistic and sustainable solution to nuclear waste.
HOS, hardened on-site storage, is a much better sustainable solution which involves reinforcing and berming and making more safe the waste at the current site where it's at. And that's what these communities want and that's what we want.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: And now we have Rose Gardner. And we're going to hear next from Kevin Kamps and then from Lon Burnam.

Rose?

MS. GARDNER: Thank you very much. I'm Rose Gardner from Eunice, New Mexico. I also am a member of the Alliance for Environmental Strategies.

And this is a very big issue, isn't it? It's not just about New Mexico. It's about the whole country adopting an attitude of where will we dump our nuclear crap? Who's going to take our nuclear crap and keep it so we don't get the other cancers and diseases associated with this stuff? It is very big and it's a very important moral issue. And some people don't have the same morals I do, I guess.

We've had family illness, cancers. I personally have ingested radioactive iodine. My
thyroid is no longer active. My brother had brain cancer. He went through radiation treatments, survived seven years and got cancer again from the radiation. So I speak from a personal level, but nevertheless I'm speaking for the communities involved that are so close to this that will be certainly impacted.

And I also wanted to mention that I'm very, very disappointed in our political leaders. Some of the leaders are here today.

(Applause.)

MS. GARDNER: And the ones that really stood up for us may not be able to say anything, but I will speak for them. Thank you, all the legislators, all the senators and state reps that asked for a delay so that we could get the necessary information. And no thanks to the seven that didn't want it.

(Applause.)

MS. GARDNER: Today I learned that there were two train derailments in the area. One is this afternoon in Barstow, Texas. Big, big, because that's where I-20 is. And they had to close the highway. In Odessa there was a derailment earlier today. What gives? On April the 20th they had a train crash in
Monahans. Two people were injured. What in the world are we thinking? We're going to move this stuff twice? What kind of insane idea is that?

You move this stuff one time. It needs to be moved. It may have to travel through the state, but this is not the permanent resting place for nuclear waste of this magnitude. This is like having 100 nuclear reactors in one place, all the waste in one place. That's asinine.

Let's protect those communities that need it now. Give them the necessary and robust containers that are needed for them to remain safe until the waste goes to its final destination. Let's do that for our -- not just the people that we know, but for all the communities that have this waste there.

I'm concerned about the area where this facility will be. R360 is already a very active facility there with their remediation efforts. How will H2S and other oil field activity affect this site and how will the oil field be affected by the site? How will the potash mines respond if there's an emergency in their area due to a possible derailment? What will the oil companies do?

I drove by the site a couple weeks ago. They're laying a pipeline across that part of the
properties. Where is that pipeline going? Will it be under the site? Will it be under the rail spur there? I don't think that's a very good idea.

MR. CAMERON: Rose, could you just sum up for us, please?

MS. GARDNER: Yes, sir, I sure will.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

MS. GARDNER: Thank you. I think that definitely our oil industry is important; that's where I get my bread and butter, and I'm looking out for them. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rose. Thank you. And now we have Kevin Kamps. And we're going to hear from Mr. Lon Burnam next. Kevin?

MR. KAMPS: Thank you, Chip. My name is Kevin Kamps with Beyond Nuclear. And last night in Roswell I spoke on transportation risks. And I would like to finish up that thought tonight. I would like to point out that as Holtec and ELEA would be so much bigger than the Yucca Mountain, Nevada dump site proposal, that this has to be taken into consideration on the transportation scheme. And this, of course, also applies to the storage risks. So just to compare. In the NRC's Federal Register Notice put out on March 29th, there was a figure given of 8,000-some
metric tons in the first phase. And that there would be 20 phases.

So through the simply math of multiplying 8,000-some metric tons by 20, the figure of 173,000 metric tons is the actual figure for what's being proposed at the Holtec site was reached. And this is versus 70,000 metric tons at Yucca Mountain. Only 63,000 of which is commercial irradiated nuclear fuel. So you can begin to see that Holtec is approaching three times the size of Yucca Mountain in terms of metric tonnage. So the transport risks and impacts would be significantly larger than those at Yucca Mountain as well. And, as Eileen Shaughnessy pointed out, that requires that transportation-impacted communities across this country have meetings like this. So the Department of Energy back in the year 2000 held two dozen meetings across the country in transportation-impacted communities. Holtec ELEA has stated that 100,000 metric tons would mean 10,000 cask shipments. Thus, 173,000 metric tons would mean more than 17,000 cask shipments out here through most states in the lower 48. So compare that again to Yucca Mountain, just over 12,000 casks shipments versus 17,000 for this Holtec proposal. In terms of the radioactive Russian roulette rolls of the dice on
the roads, rails and waterways, Holtec ELEA's facility would be significantly more risky than even the highly controversial, high-risk Yucca Mountain dump scheme.

So I would like to move on to this question of temporary versus permanent. I set of comments I have out on the back table -- and folks are welcome to take those if they'd like -- is about the risk of so called centralized or consolidated interim storage facility becoming actually a de facto permanent surface storage parking lot dump. Holtec ELEA have applied for a permit to NRC to store irradiated nuclear fuel here for 40 years. But this time period could, as they admit, be extended to 120 years. But in a report that Holtec prepared and submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy back on January 27th, 2017 -- signed by Joy Russell, who spoke tonight, sent to Andrew Griffith at DOE -- Holtec International's response to the DOE request for proposal on centralized interim storage, at page 12 of 12, there is a quote from Holtec that says -- and I quote -- the CIS should have a minimum service life of 300 years. End quote. How can 40 years be called temporary, let alone 300? That's longer than the United States has been a country.

The first federal government commissioned
report on the disposal of highly radioactive waste was published in 1957, the same year as the first so-called civilian atomic reactor began operations in this country at Shippingport, Pennsylvania. But in 61 years since, a geologic repository has not opened in this country. DOE said five years ago that one could not be opened now until 2048 at the earliest -- 30 years from now. Even that date is likely highly optimistic as geologic disposal is so elusive, any claims of interim or temporary storage must be met with deep skepticism. And once a 173,000 metric tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste are parked in Southeast New Mexico -- and I point out that that's more than twice what exists in this country already, do Holtec is planning ahead for decades of more generation of radioactive waste -- there is a very good chance that it will never leave again. So, just to conclude with some political reality, if this waste comes out here, it would turn out to be one member of the United States House of Representatives versus 434 others for it to ever move again. And in the U.S. Senate it would be a vote of 98 to 2. So folks had better think about this deeply before it's allowed to come out here. Thank you.

(Applause.)
MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Kevin. And now we're going to hear from Lon and then we are going to go to Loretta Richards, Noel Marquez and Elizabeth Padilla.

MR. BURNAM: Good evening, NRC staff and Chip. I am Lon Burnam and I was born in Artesia, Texas but I spent most of my life in Fort Worth and served as a legislator in Fort Worth for 18 years where I represented more people than are in all three counties that these public meetings are being held in in Southeastern New Mexico. I represented central Fort Worth where Tower 55 controls over half of the train traffic from the port of Los Angeles to the Midwestern East Coast and trains regularly sit at Tower 55 for over a 24-hour period. Now, I have ensured my staff that, well, we will figure out a way to expedite -- not having those trains sit in the legislative district that you represented for 18 years for 24 hours at a time. And we will work double time to make sure that they will not be subjected to terrorist activity.

So that's the reason I asked the obnoxious question three different ways. I am not even sure that the timeliness of this meeting is legal. You see, they don't have the legislative authority to
completely process this application. And as Chip admitted in private conversation, we know that that will probably be a matter of litigation because of process. And I want to make sure all of you heard that Max will talk about the question of legality of activities of the organization here, the Eddy-Lea Alliance. They have not been in compliance with public meeting laws. What they have done is created an appearance. They've -- some people call it astro turf grass roots, they have created an appearance of support for this. But in reality, those decisions have been made in private for the most part. Frequently there's no record of those meetings. So, process-wise, we have two questions about the legality of what we're doing here today. I tried to talk about transportation yesterday and cumulative impacts. Dr. Gomez did such a better job than I did. He's an incredible presenter.

What we're talking about here is incredibly racist. The impact on my community is 70-percent minority. That potential impact of transport. And then you back up to the bigger picture of a fairly legitimate concern of the artificial segregation of various environmental impacts. Transportation is a huge issue here. Now, we don't have any more examples
any more recent than the one today. Rose mentioned
the accident in Odessa, eight cars fell off the track.
Then there's the one near -- not Midlothian, but
Monahans, over and over again. I talked of that
yesterday. The oil transportation infrastructure in
this country is not adequate to support this visionary
concept of moving all of this plutonium all over the
country to this site.

Now, I also want to admonish the white
power elite pods. This is not an economic development
project. It's not supposed to be considered an
economic development project. This is about dealing
with a mistake -- mistake of creating plutonium for 70
years and not knowing what to do with it. This is not
an economic development project for you. There are
not going to be 100 jobs as was reported year in and
year out. This is an economic risk that you have not
evaluated.

Yesterday, in Roswell, we heard concerns
about the potential impact on water. Yesterday we
heard from five people from Midland talking about
threats -- the economic threats to the oil and gas
industry. This should not be evaluated as an economic
development project for Southeastern New Mexico.

(Appplause.)
MR. CAMERON: And Lon, could I ask you to sum up?

MR. BURNAM: Glad to. This is about centralized interim storage of the most dangerous thing ever created. And I don't want it -- the constituents that I represented for 18 years do not consent. And most of the people in this room tonight do not consent.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: All right, thank you, Lon. Is Loretta -- Loretta Richards? Oh, I am sorry. I finally understand, thank you. Noel and Elizabeth Padilla. And there's someone who has signed in whose last name is Velasquez, but I couldn't find the -- I couldn't -- okay. All right. Go ahead, Noel. Go ahead.

MR. MARQUEZ: My name is Noel Marquez. I am from Artesia, New Mexico. I am a father of an 11-year-old daughter and I am a community artist. I am proud to have my work highlighted in front of this building. It's a ranching family on one side and a driller, oil field worker, on the other pillar. Both industries proven science and culture over many, many years versus the failed science of WIPP, which we have also held as high science and technology.
I am also a co-founder of Alliance for Environmental Strategies. It's a small organization from Southeast New Mexico, allied with many wonderful people and organizations to educate our communities about nuclear colonialism. All of us are grass root links with basic common interest, love of all children, concern for future generations, respect for the mothers of life -- which includes our Mother Earth. We are facing the gospel of bad government that uses power and money over community input and respect. Regarding nuclear waste, Holtec and ELEAC use questionable science and technology to try to shut down our voices. Although we thought, in my small neck of the woods, we should never overlook the untapped natural resources of grass roots working people, picking up their meals on the way to work to make their industries better.

Livelihoods -- we need to continue to make alliances with each other, starting with our indigenous relatives that were the first to be poisoned, sacrificed and robbed of their lands in Northwest New Mexico. We need to connect and educate our communities regarding our human sisterhood and brotherhood to avoid the traps of the two-party system, which is keeping us divided. We must develop
a new social and political structure which allows for community-first voices over corporate dollar voices only. I am a product of the 1960's colonial education system -- the real, American history and truth from the indigenous and the African American experience were omitted. The Manifest Destiny code of ethics from a critical point of discussion was never mentioned, questioned or discussed. This colonial code continues to rule in Southeast New Mexico through the economic power of the nuclear waste industries and their paid political representatives. Real change will start from the bottom up and only with education, compassion, generosity, responsibility and the love of each other. But will we be able to overcome the barbarism that we are facing today?

Many members of my communities who are documented residents are very fearful and intimidated of being here to speak today. The unstable geology from resource depletion surrounding the Holtec and the WCS sites is now a recurring concern and theme. The ultra-heavy weight of depleted uranium must not be allowed to be stored above these brittle, geological sites such as ELEA is proposing. We are now all uniting as related communities with common interests that value our livelihoods.
MR. CAMERON: And, Noel, could I get you to sum up?

MR. MARQUEZ: All of us are hardworking peoples who are tired of being disregarded. Remember, all life is connected. Thank you. And one other thing I want to mention is my friend George Mullen, when we were in Artesia, asked you about who would be in charge of moving the waste after 40 years. And you said the Department of Energy would be in charge. And he asked, why isn't that agency here today to answer about moving this thing? It seems like there's no plan to move it out of New Mexico afterwards if they are not here. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

(Appplause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Noel. Thank you very much. Elizabeth Padilla? Here is Elizabeth. And then we are going to go, I think it's Lorenzo Velasquez -- you're next.

MS. PADILLA: Hello, everybody. Thank you for being here. Can everybody hear me? Okay, that's good. My name is Elizabeth Padilla and I am just a concerned mother. I am concerned and I am strongly opposing this project because of many, many possible risks. Okay, first of all, the health and safety in
transporting this to hundreds of communities across the country -- this -- like we said before, this isn't just about this area, West Texas and New Mexico. It's about the whole country, okay? What about the homes that would be stuck near a railway? The NRC -- well, there has been -- the NRC notes that there is a small amount of emitted radiation that -- or, that will be emitted through these railcars. So if we talk about years of having to be near one of this railways, you know, what about -- what about the families -- the homes near this? What would -- you know, there's obviously going to be a risk on them -- on their health.

Also, again, I strongly believe that this is a complete unnecessary risk that shouldn't even be considered. I strongly believe that this kind of waste should be just stored on site. I think that this is the safest way to store it -- have it on site near where it was generated. Also, according to a study by a geophysicist -- and we had already mentioned this before -- at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas. His name is Chung Lu. You spell it C-H-U-N-G-, Lu, L-U. It showed that this area is -- yes, obviously it is sinking, okay? We're having this issue -- there's -- as the result of the
fracking activity of many, many years already. So we also have the Ogallala aquifer near, okay? We can't afford any risks whatsoever. There are many risks in life that can and should be taken. This isn't one of those. It wouldn't be a smart one. If there were to be a leak because of this, or a ground movement or an earthquake and -- you know, we -- the country would be in trouble because of the water supply. As we know, the Ogallala Aquifer is the largest one in the nation. Also, we have tornados, earthquakes, wildfires, sinkholes, and also extreme temperatures.

I also wanted to mention that halfway between Hobbs -- and I wanted to mention, kind of like, the exact location -- County Road 31, near the proposed site -- has multiple warnings signs already. So I just wanted to bring that up. Also, on U.S. 285, south -- U.S.-285 South also has signs, subject to sinkholes. I also wanted to bring up the four canisters that were designed by Holtec that are -- that have design flaws that are storing nuclear waste at the San Onofre waste plant. And apparently there's no solution to this. So I don't know what the deal is. There's no scientific solution, so I don't know about talking about -- you know, having everything under control and having these canisters 100-percent
safe, well, there's four already that are not so safe.

Also, my children -- I also believe, that yes, that obviously New Mexico and West Texas have been targeted. And I strongly believe that this is an environmental injustice -- completely. Our health and safety shouldn't have a price tag on good jobs and good salaries. This isn't an economic development project. To me, this is a slap in the face. Straight up -- slap in the face.

MR. CAMERON: Elizabeth, could I just get you to sum up for us?

MS. PADILLA: Yes, yes. Also, my children, your children, your grandchildren -- our future generations, they did not generate this waste. Okay? So it's not their job -- or they shouldn't have to deal with this burden in the future. My children didn't generate -- yours didn't either. So think about that. Think about that.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. PADILLA: And also, I do not consent to store high radioactive waste on my backyard, okay?

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, thank you very much, Elizabeth.

(Applause.)
MR. CAMERON: Go ahead.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. My name is Lorenzo Velasquez, I am the Emergency Management Director.

(Pause.)

MR. VELASQUEZ: My name is Lorenzo Velasquez. I am the Emergency Management Director for Lea County. I have been doing this for about 11 years. I am also the Flood Plain Manager, Fire Marshall, Environmental Director and I oversee some of the Fire Departments for Lea County -- Maljamar, Monument, and Knowles. With that being said, Maljamar Fire Department will be the primary agency in the event of a fire-related emergency at the holding facility. Hobbs Fire Department will be the primary agency in the event of a medical emergency or hazardous material incidents. Hobbs Fire does have a hazmat team here.

The Emergency Management Office of Lea County has also assisted with the development of Holtec International Emergency Operations Plan, which we can proudly say included input from Maljamar Fire, Hobbs Fire Department, Lea County Sheriff's Department and New Mexico State Police. And again, thank you for
allowing me to speak.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Lorenzo. Okay, we are going to go to John. John, I am not sure I can pronounce your last name -- Buchser?

(Pause.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Then we are going to go to Lorraine Villegas, Mike McCleod, Elizabeth Boone, David Rosen and Karen Hadden.

MR. BUCHSER: Good evening. My name is John Buchser. I am the Water Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, representing 10,000 members here in New Mexico and three counties of West Texas. I keep trying to come back to one of the -- I see as the primary purposes of the NRC reviewing this application, which is to protect public health and safety. And I see Holtec as having applied for a particular solution, which I don't think is quite the right solution. So what I would like to propose to Holtec is that they consider a much more incremental strategy at addressing this highly radioactive waste problem. So I will come back to that as I go.

I got -- I have been trying to cover some of the points that over speakers haven't covered. And personally, I really like trains. I've played trains since I was a little kid. And I had a railroad --
basically took over my bedroom. I hardly had any room for me. But I loved my railroad. In terms of any kind of transportation of this waste to what I hope is a long-term disposal site -- and basically, you know, ceasing production of new waste and being able to handle this problem as best we can -- the -- the weight of the trains that -- if you adequately protect it in moving it around -- which is a question of well, we can even do that. But I hope that technology brings us there. The -- most of the rail lines that this travels on will need to be improved considerably. And the amount of investment in the community in this county, in the area, is just hardly anything compared to what we need to invest in our rail lines. So I actually like that particular part of this problem because rail lines are very efficient. We are going to get better rail lines as a part of this solution. However, who is paying for that? Who is monitoring it? Is it the NRC? Is it the DOE? Is it the DOT? It's not clear who is responsible for that whole process.

I mentioned -- Representative Scott mentioned two things that I appreciated. One is that he believes that transport safety will be considered as part of this application. I did kind of question
a comment from NRC staff is that the DOT is responsible, not the -- not the NRC. So that's a question I have for the NRC. And then the other is that Representative Scott mentioned that the project should be evaluated based on science. This is a hard problem, and we absolutely need to take that into effect.

The -- I think the big challenge for the NRC -- and I think Holtec can work with the NRC to help in this respect -- is that risk minimization of the entire process of handling this waste should be the primary goal. Right now it seems to be a profit-related thing. It can remain a profit-related thing, but also minimizing risk to the public and to our future children. Until a permanent solution is determined, the waste should not move unless at a high risk location. The nearest location to minimize movement should be perhaps nearby reactor sites or military bases.

If the public -- if this waste all disappears to Lea County, the public is no longer going to be engaged. We are already having trouble engaging Congress in doing anything -- and this waste is scattered all over. If we put it all here, they are going to forget all about it. We need the sites
in many places in order to ensure that the public is still thinking about the problem. And in summary, we need to stop creating this waste. We shouldn't be reprocessing it. It just creates higher level waste and perpetuates the problem. And I really appreciate that Lea County is pursuing all renewable energy sources. We've got a great energy source, cool nuclear reaction going on -- has been for millions of years -- and will keep going that way. There is a whole lot more jobs available for income for the county, pursuing wind and solar. Thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you, John. Lorraine? Lorraine Villegas? Villegas?

MS. VILLEGAS: Hello, welcome to Hobbs. I am Lorraine, I am from Hobbs. I love my little town. This is home. I have a lot of people that I live here -- that I love dearly. And I am not an expert in any of this, or a scientist. But I am concerned about this deal. What concerns me is that those who have posed this project are going to consider that anything might possibly ever go wrong. I know that scientists have said that it's safe and that nothing will ever go wrong -- which can probably
be debated until tomorrow. But that's not my argument tonight.

I personally feel -- I personally feel like it is negligent to not consider that something might go wrong with this. If my community is expected to step up and serve our nation by taking all this waste after everyone else has rejected it, then I need this industry and those working with this industry to step up and acknowledge this. The letter that our state representatives have sent you states that numerous good faith efforts have been made to fully educate the general public about the project while addressing concerns. I have been following this project, and I haven't seen anything that covers emergency preparedness whatsoever. If our safety is a priority, like everyone keeps saying, then this should be already considered by now. Economic growth is not as important to me as the quality of life, water, air and land. Lastly --

(Appause.)

MS. VILLEGAS: Someone earlier said that they believe that the majority of residents here support this, and I am letting you know that that is not true. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Lorraine.
And this is Mike McCleod.

MR. McLEOD: Good evening, thank you for being here. My name is Mike McLeod and I'm here today on behalf of XCEL Energy.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding XCEL Energy's perspective on the Holtec International License Application and the importance of a consolidated interim storage solution to the issue of used nuclear fuel.

XCEL Energy is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota in and serves more than 3 million electric and gas customers in eight states, including New Mexico and Texas.

The proposed Holtec facility is located in our service area here in New Mexico and will be a customer of XCEL Energy. Nuclear power generation is an important part of our balanced energy mix which also includes coal, natural gas, and renewable energy.

We operate two nuclear plants, the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant in Monticello, Minnesota, and the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant in Red Wing, Minnesota. These facilities provide 30 percent of the electricity for XCEL's upper Midwest customers.

For our company and for the nation,
nuclear energy is reliable, resilient, and a clean
source of base-load energy. Today, used nuclear fuel
is stored safely in storage pools and dry-casks that
are at the Monticello and Prairie Island plants.

In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste
Policy Act, which outlined the Department of Energy's
responsibility for developing a geological repository
for used nuclear fuel.

As a result of this statute, the Federal
Government made a commitment to accept and permanently
store spent fuel beginning in 1998, a commitment that
has not been met.

We've worked closely with our host
communities including the Prairie Island Indian
community and our stakeholders for years to encourage
the Federal Government to fulfil its obligation to
develop a solution for spent nuclear fuel from the
nation's reactors and shutdown sites.

We strongly support the creation of a
permanent repository for spent fuel, but believe that
an interim storage facility is an important step
towards that development.

We support a robust stakeholder engagement
process and a thorough regulatory and licensing
proceeding for any proposed interim facility,
including the Holtec facility. Such a process will help ensure evolution and safety protections for the facility.

We also appreciate that our communities and customers in and around New Mexico and Texas service territories are part of that discussion.

We are proud to be part of the Eastern New Mexico community and its pragmatic support of an all-the-above energy policy.

A project like the Holtec facility is consistent with our tradition in this state and will support economic development and jobs in the region. If approved, the Holtec project will also promote sound energy policy, not only in New Mexico but in Minnesota and throughout the nation.

We look forward to progress as the NRC considers Holtec International's application for a license to construct and operate a consolidated interim storage facility in Lea County New Mexico, as well as a parallel process for a permanent storage solution.

Thank you so much for your time.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Mike. Elizabeth Boone? And then we're going to David Rosen and Karen Hadden.
MS. BOONE: Hi, my name's Elizabeth Boone. I'm from Eunice, New Mexico.

I debated on whether or not to speak out or ask questions because it might be adverse to my reputation and my career. I might lose clients, but at this point, I just don't care.

Okay, so I'm from Eunice and I have three beautiful babies and that is why I'm standing right here, because my babies are going to have grandbabies and they did not create this waste.

And they don't deserve to have to deal with the burden of this waste. So, I do not consent and I'll go ahead and say that for your grandbaby as well.

Did you know that incident that happened at WIP was supposed to, well, the risk was 1 in 200,000 years, but it happened once within 15 years. And you want to tell me that these containers that are going to be shipped on these rail cars could be hit with a bomb and nothing's going to happen? That doesn't even -- I can't even comprehend that sentence.

I can tell you this though, I feel that I'm a very good driver, I feel that my husband is a very good driver, but I still buckle my kids in a car
seat. My car is still crash-tested and so is my car seat.

So, don't tell me that it's so safe and everything, especially when an incident like that happened at WIP. And this is a different type of waste that you're trying to bring here. It's a higher level than is stored at WCS, I think that needs to be noted.

One of the questions that I've had is there was -- one second.

So, Don Hancock, the Nuclear Programs Director at the Southwest Research and Information Center was quoted citing this proposal where they were going to move some waste to Yucca Mountain and the proposal did disclose that it could cause 160 to 180 latent cancer deaths among transportation workers and up to 100 traffic fatalities.

Who's going to disclose this potential risk to the communities? Will it be the NRC? Will it be Holtec? Is there going to be an actual study to disclose these types of potential fatalities?

I know that the NRC, you're purposed and you're tasked with protecting public health and safety related to nuclear energy.

So, my question is who are you protecting
by transporting this waste across the country from both ends from everywhere, on rail cars, taking it through other communities?

How much radiation can be emitted by one of these containers, just one? Do we know the answer to that?

Because I think you are charged with an ethical obligation to do your due diligence to see who has already been exposed to this risk where the containers lie now, where the waste is now.

So, instead of spending all these billions of dollars to bring it to New Mexico where we already have plenty of waste, why can't these billions of dollars be spent to create a temporary spot for where it is now?

I don't think transporting it across the country and exposing so many people to potential risk -- I know it's potential, I know there is a potential that nothing could go wrong, but my baby's not worth that. Your baby shouldn't be worth that.

I know you want to talk about gross receipts and franchise tax and property taxes but my babies are priceless.

MR. CAMERON: Excuse me, Elizabeth, could you sum up?
MS. BOONE: Yes.

And I feel like your baby should be priceless too, and I just want to thank you for your time and I respect everybody's opinions and I just hope you do your due diligence and I hope you do think about the potential risk that could happen.

And also, I wanted to note that if you're aware that Dallas County, the City of San Antonio, and Bexar County all have already signed ordinances that say, no, you cannot transport through our city, through our county, through anything.

What if we --

MR. CAMERON: Elizabeth, I'm going to have to ask you to just stop.

MS. BOONE: What if we get all of the intercepting places to do that as well? Who is going to transport it? How are you going to get it here?

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much.

MS. BOONE: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: David Rosen? There he is. There you are, thank you.

MR. ROSEN: Good evening. I'm David Rosen, I'm a geologist from Midland, Texas. I've been working in the oil business for about 45 years now and so coming here from Midland, I'd like to add our
geological perspective and our county perspective.

Our County Commissioners have also talked about the nuclear waste coming through our town because, of course, railroads come through most large towns in West Texas and last year, our County Commissioners passed a resolution that said the citizens of Midland County did not want nuclear waste coming through Midland.

So, in addition, I'm delighted that the gentlemen from Minnesota just spoke. It reminded me that some of the oldest, most stable rocks in this country are in the Canadian shield that reaches down into Minnesota.

So, when we start thinking about stable rocks, Minnesota's a good place to look. It is. We've seen a lot of subsidence and dissolution in the Permian Basin which Hobbs is part of.

We know that there's those huge sinkholes throughout and tomorrow, you'll be in Carlsbad and you'll have a chance to see some subsidence in downtown Carlsbad.

I believe wasn't it at the South Y down in Carlsbad where there was significant subsidence. So, if you get a chance, go down and see it for yourselves.
We know that the rail accident that happened in Monohan's on the 20th of April wasn't a small accident. 12 rail cars overturned.

And so I don't question the ability of the scientists and people who will be working at Holtec in their capacity for excellence. What I really question is the idea of moving this nuclear material twice.

I think that we should be realistic and look at it that if none of us are going to be around in 120 years or 300 years, how can we as people today in the United States guarantee that this will go to a final resting place other than Hobbs, New Mexico? We can't guarantee it.

And so as was initially planned with these nuclear waste piles the local areas, there has to be hardened on-site storage. And it was also planned that it would go to a final resting place once. Let's stick with that plan.

Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, David, thank you.

And now we have Karen?

MS. HADDEN: My name is Karen Hadden and I'm here on behalf of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition. And this is our message tonight, we don't want it.
And I'd like to take just a moment, and for those of you that have concerns about this project or who are out-and-out opposed, would please stand?

I just want for the NRC and for any media to know that this is the nature of the real concerns in the communities, in the communities that would get dumped on, that would be targeted.

Thank you so much. And in the communities that would be along transport routes throughout the country.

I know a woman who spends her whole days working at a museum and right outside the back of the museum, probably 30 feet from her, is a train going by; almost all day long trains are going by. She goes home at night and she's about two blocks from the rail line.

These things are having routine emissions going down the road and while the NRC says those are small, it sure adds up when you're around it all the time, and this is just not right.

And this license application should not be proceeding without the designation of the transport routes that would be used. That's criminal.

So, I don't know how anybody in any way can say you're here to find out if this is safe. We
know that it's not.

Studies done for Yucca Mountain determine that there would be at least 1 train accident per 10,000 shipments, and it's hard to know how many shipments there would be because this license application doesn't even have accurate information.

It contradicts itself in the total volume of waste that would be brought in. As Kevin Kamps brought out earlier, it looks like it would be 173,000 tons.

This is a huge number of shipments, and let's talk about what would be on those rail cars and what we're really talking about here.

This is not little, this is waste from 100 nuclear reactors or more and it would be coming down the rails and each one of the rail cars with a canister in it would have as much plutonium contained in it as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, each one.

We're not saying that's in bomb form, but that's an incredible amount of plutonium. There's uranium, most of the uranium in the fuel rods is still in the fuel rods.

We call it spent but that's an oxymoron because there's nothing spent about it. It's a
million times more reactive than when the fuel rods were loaded into the reactors. We know this.

We also know from scientific reports that if a person is three feet away from this waste, and if the waste is not shielded, it will be immediately incapacitated and die within a week.

There's nothing safe about this. No one in this country wants this waste, that's why there's a problem. The East Coast doesn't want it, the West Coast doesn't want it.

90 of the reactors are on the East Coast, and in 1984, when the National Academy of Sciences did their geologic study for a permanent repository, they looked at 20 sites.

The worst one is on the list at the bottom and that included Yucca Mountain. It was at the bottom of the list. Why did it get chosen? Politics and what the industry thought they can get away with, who they thought they can force it on.

And they tried and Nevada fought, and they fought like hell. Just about every place in the country when you propose anything nuclear, people fight like hell and there's a reason why. It is not safe.

Now, what is the logic in shipping the
waste from 90 nuclear reactors, so many thousands of miles across the country?

We've got that same National Academy of Sciences study that looked at geology and found that the best geology is igneous rock and the best sites were on the East Coast, not all that far from the White House.

So, you know, you could reduce the number of miles traveled and you could send it there, and not put this community, this region, at risk.

So, there's been several big issues raised in terms of safety, wildfires, jets that might crash from military training, train accidents, et cetera.

All three of those were in the news from KWES 9 tonight and all three of them are a problem at this moment. Wildfires are burning in Ruidoso, we've had wildfires -- don't come over here, I'll watch you, please.

MR. CAMERON: You got the message?

MS. HADDEN: Yes, yes, you can back up, I'll wrap up. Give me a minute. So, wildfires have been burning in Ruidoso, they continue. Wildfires have swept past the WCS site right outside the border.

Military training, there was a military jet that had to do an emergency landing today. This
is way too close to existing Air Force bases and pilot training.

Train accidents, you've heard about two accidents just today. The railroad engineers that I've talked with recently say that the tracks in south eastern New Mexico are in horrible shape.

They're rated for 143 tons per car and these loaded casks would be about 196,000 tons, about 33 percent more than that or even greater depending on what you've got. So, that's a safety factor.

And they've done testing for a train at 60 miles per hour into a barrier. Already, an accident in West Texas had two trains, 65 miles per hour head on.

That exceeds what's ever been tested. Most of that testing is computer modeling and not full-scale testing and not real scenarios, just computer modeling.

I will add one thing, that the economic development portion of the license application should include health, safe ways to improve the economy.

This is an energy county, how about developing wind like the 400, 600 megawatt utility-scale solo projects going on in Texas, where this is --
MR. CAMERON: Karen, I'm going to have to ask you to close. Thank you.

MS. HADDEN: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, Carol Cowland, Dan Lorimer, Cynthia Brackney, Patricia Cardona, and Fred Ortiz. And this is Carol coming down.

MS. LAMM: I have very little to say because so much has already been said and better than I would say it.

I only want to say how much I appreciate what some of you have said and I resent the fact that so many politicians have already -- it's a foregone conclusion with them.

And I find that suspect frankly, but what I do want to say is I'm a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother.

And my descendants, many of them live in Hobbs and so it is very important to me to have a safe place for my loved ones and yours. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, Dan Lorimer?

MR. LORIMER: Thank you, Commissioners and Staff. I think I would also like to thank President Richard Nixon for signing -- I would like to thank the Commissioners and the Staff, I would like to thank President Richard Nixon for signing the National
Environmental Policy Act, without which I doubt seriously any of us would be here tonight.

My name is Dan Lorimer, I'm a 40-year resident of southern New Mexico, living outside of the town of Truth or Consequences. And consequences are part of the reason that we're all here tonight.

If this permit application is approved, it would set in motion a very, very risky process of loading, transporting, and unloading this potential 10,000-plus highly radioactive fuel rods.

It seems to me obvious, and I know this has been brought up before, that a full review of site-specific issues at the closed and the operating/generating facilities, that study would need to look closely at this high-risk phase of consolidated storage and it should be included in the EIS.

Also, you've heard a lot about the transportation issues including weight capacity limitations as well as public health issues, and so this should obviously be included in the scoping for this particular project.

At a more local level, I want to reiterate the concerns that were previously expressed by Steve and others about the Loose Study from Southern
Methodist University that looked at significant geologic instability, due very likely to extensive oil and gas development in the Permian Basin.

And that study looks at a large area that fringes on where we stand this evening, and the changes it described are significant. Inches a year, that sounds like a little bit over a long time but in geologic terms, inches a year is an explosion of activity.

This study describes that explosion that geologic land surface subsidence and uplift phenomenon that's associated with the development of oil and gas in the Permian.

I think a close look at those concerns that are raised by that study is essential in any kind of scoping analysis for the evolution impact statement for this project. Thanks.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dan, thank you very much. Cynthia? Patricia Cardona?

MS. CARDONA: Hello, ladies and gentlemen, and I know that the NRC Staff has a very difficult job ahead of them. I know the audience is probably very tired at this point of hearing about everything.

However, I think this is an important subject so we can all go through a little bit of pain
for a very important subject.

I come from an area and I was born in an area near Yucca Mountain. I'm a downwinder from the Nevada site for testing of the atom bomb.

Yucca Mountain, the first proposal for a permanent facility was turned down by the residents. They fought it, they fought Ward Valley, because they tried again in Ward Valley in the Mojave Desert.

Yucca Mountain I doubt will ever be built. The Nevada aristocracy, so to speak, does not want it there and that's really the casino owners. So, I think we need to get realistic about what is going to happen in all of this.

I have worked here in New Mexico as a volunteer, I came here to retire. I've worked on consumer issues relating to utilities and I've worked on legislative issues related to environmental issues.

I know many of the legislators here. You have some very good legislators but sometimes I have big disagreements with them; this is one of them.

I think the EIS report is very important and the elements in the EIS report need to be very clearly defined. First of all, what does safe mean?

Safe to me means zero radiation, safe to me means no risk whatsoever. So, the terms that you
use, safe, are not something that I feel, and I think many people feel, are accurate in anything that has been presented at any time.

Why is Yucca Mountain not a permanent repository?

The other thing is working in the legislature, we just took on, and why this should affected all New Mexicans is the fact that whatever happens in one part of New Mexico affects the other part of New Mexico.

Carlsbad brought economic development for a brine well, low-level waste. Well, guess what? The company that did the Economic Development went bankrupt and the State of New Mexico, all the taxpayers, are paying a $30 million bill.

So, all of us are taking on that. Why? Because it involves people's lives and we've got to assure that people are safe. So, New Mexico, all of New Mexico, is affected by what goes on here.

Who pays the bills for failures? Is it going to be the Federal Government? That's what has been presented to us.

The Federal Government doesn't even have the money to cover the environmental disasters related to uranium. So, why, how, do we think we're going to
be different? Who is going to pay for any personal injury or property damage along the rail lines?

   Insurance does not pay for that. Is the Federal Government going to pay for it?

   Is the Federal Government going to give full market value to whatever is lost, full market value to all the businesses that are going to be affected virtually by accident or any incident?

   If the State of New Mexico has to close down all the oil wells in the Permian Basin, are all of the oil companies getting full market value for their losses? Think about who pays the bills.

   It's all of us that are going to pay the bills. Nuclear is too expensive, we can't afford it; this is not economic development. We can't afford the health bills that are going to be involved.

   We have the highest cancer rate in this area of New Mexico and in your EIS I hope you include all of the kinds of cancers that are in this area as well as the kinds of bills that are being paid out and the birth defects that are occurring generationally.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very much.

(Appause.)

Fred, Fred Ortiz, and then Mary Beth and
then Philip Valdez, Susan Schurrman, Leona Morgan, Cody Skma, Janet Greenwald, and Gordon Dyer. And this is Fred Ortiz...

MR. ORTIZ: Yes, my name is Fred Ortiz, I'm from Eunice and I'm retired. I recognize some of you. Listen, I'm a layperson, I don't understand a whole lot about this stuff.

So, radioactive materials are dangerous. And I've been in Eunice, looking around at what we have around there, URENCO, waste disposal just outside on the Texas border.

I sit back and just like a lot of you folks who say, well, what did we do to deserve to be the dumping ground for everybody? That's what I feel like.

I mentioned the radioactivity of this stuff. I believe in Murphy's Law: if it can go wrong, it will go wrong. I feel railroaded in what's happening but I do believe in democracy.

You gentlemen here expressed your opinions, that's great; the other people have expressed their opinions.

I think probably the best answer here, guys, is for us to somehow if we could get a vote for the state, we're talking about a state here. Or even
better, for Lea County or any county, let's take a
vote. It's better to be the state.

I believe in states' rights; states' rights are more important than the Federal, in this case especially. If somehow you get a mandate from the state and you really have the opinion of the people, then I would go with it.

But this railroad, what I'm calling a railroad, is not the way. You're going to have dissension here. People aren't going to be happy but I think if you had an election of some kind that could get a mandate from the whole state, then very little could be argued.

I think everyone will do their best on the safety part, but what's really missing here is a mandate from the people that are the most affected which is us.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Ortiz. Mary Beth?

MS. BRANGAN: I'm Mary Beth Brangan from the Ecological Options Network and we're based in California.

And my partner and I are here because we're very, very concerned about this and I want to
assure you there are other Californians who do not want to send their radioactive waste here.

We don't want to do that for a great many reasons but the first one is its environmental racism and we really object to the concept of putting anymore of the burden of the nation's radioactivity on your communities.

(Applause.)

Also, I want to talk about the transportation risks which I know everybody has spoken about, but I can't resist.

Every one of these canisters that would be coming would contain roughly as much cesium alone, that's just one isotope, as was contained, as was released in the Chernobyl accident. Every canister.

And so just keeping that in mind, I was looking at just three years from 2013 to 2016 of oil train accidents which might give us an idea about how heavy loads fare on our nation's railways.

In 2013, there were 11,636 accidents, 8740 injuries, and 700 fatalities, but no Chernobyl releases. In 2014, 12,226 accidents, 8788 injuries, and 765 fatalities. In 2015, 11,814 accidents, 9087 injuries, 749 fatalities.

2016 -- and I'm sure you're going to be
happy that I only looked at this many years -- 10,927 accidents, 8050 injuries, and 805 fatalities. This is not a good idea to move this waste twice.

We've got to put all those resources instead into finding a suitable repository, beefing up the canisters and putting them into thicker containers so we buy ourselves more time at each location where the radioactive waste is already, and seriously develop the hardened on-site storage that has been spoken about.

Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mary Beth.

(Applause.)

It's Phillip Valdez. Here's Phillip.

MR. VALDEZ: Hello, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Philip Valdez. I was born and raised here in Hobbs and I'm simply a concerned citizen.

First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity. I'd like to thank -- oh, sorry. I would like to thank everybody here that came out and those whose left for coming out for such an important issue.

Most of my concerns are going to be echoes but one of the main ones I have is for Meetings like
this, I'm not exactly sure -- it was on the mailing Meeting, where someone discussed how past proposals like this have gotten 22 to 23 town hall Meetings in various different communities.

And my concern is the amount that this proposal with only four, to me, it just is not enough. It's not enough. More people need to be aware of this situation in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Lea County, New Mexico, and the United States.

Because it's not just Lea County residents who are going to be affected by this. It's going to be citizens of this country, through the transportation, that all have the right to have an input on such an important topic.

So, that's a question that I would ask is why so few Meetings? The input of the population or the citizens of these communities is a big factor in determining the proposal approval.

And the amount of people that are here tonight left and the amount of people that were here in total tonight is such a small percentage of the amount of input that would be expressed over a subject like this.

Another point that I would like to bring up is an echo again to the transportation.
I work in the oil field and I regularly see the results of overuse of the infrastructures, just on the highway system, the weight of the oil tankers and traffic that goes through all day, every day around here and the effects that it has on the road.

Now, I would say this is going to be 10 times that, 100 times that on the railroad infrastructure, something to think about.

You can’t promise somebody no accidents or complete safety because you’re not even promised tomorrow. So, how can somebody promise me that for 100 years, 120 years, that this stuff is going to be safe?

Another thing is somebody had mentioned earlier that the canisters have been in use or you have been using this technology for the past 32 years.

That’s only a quarter of the proposed 100-year temporary site that they’re planning. So how can we evaluate the safety on such a short term?

One other point I’d like to make is that just 20 miles west of the proposed site, there was a sink hole off of 380. It was unpredictable.

The H2S in there is a corrosive gas that we deal with. I’m not sure if the inventors of this
technology in these transportation casks or storage facilities have taken that into consideration.

I just do not want this in town, in my community where my family and the people that I love stay. And I just would like to you guys to take that into consideration and I wanted to close with the one quote.

A friend of mine that had to leave wanted me to quote. He wasn't able to come speak but it says when the last tree is cut down, the last fish is eaten, the last stream is poisoned, you will then realize that you cannot eat money.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And this is Susan, Susan Schurrman.

MS. SCHURRMAN: Thank you for letting me speak even though it's after 10:00 p.m.

My name is Susan Schurrman, I have lived in New Mexico for 25 years, and I am a cancer survivor. And I do not consent to bring high-level radioactive waste to New Mexico.

Shame on Holtec International for suggesting that New Mexico be the national nuclear waste dump. Shame on Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance for
trying to bring high-level radioactive waste here to our state.

Shame on the NRC for even considering bringing all the nation's spent fuel rods to a state that has already suffered so much from the hands of the nuclear industry.

I look around at the faces of the people, including me, who live here. I don't see it written anywhere on our foreheads: Dump deadly waste here.

The world's first bomb was created here and now plutonium is in the water downstream from Los Alamos. The world's first atomic bomb was dropped here and now generations of downwinders from the Trinity site suffer from thyroid cancer.

Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines continue to plague Indian Country, tailings piles surround Church Rock. Lung cancer has killed so many Navajo Dine miners and their families.

The Church Rock spill in '79 was the third worst nuclear accident in history and has never been fully cleaned up. The mixed race land fair at Sandia National Labs is a radioactive dump that could explode at any time after it rains.

The raised isolation pilot plant had a radioactive release accident after just 15 years of
operation, and over 2,000 nuclear warheads were being secretly stored at Kirtland Air Force Base on the edge of Albuquerque, the state's largest city.

It is astonishing that New Mexico is being considered, that New Mexicans are being asked yet again to be the national sacrifice zone for radioactive fuel rods that will remain deadly for tens of thousands of years.

If this waste is as safe as Holtec and ALEA claim, then why can't it stay where it is?

(Applause.)

Why can't it stay in the communities which have enjoyed nuclear-power-generated electricity? Because it's not safe, it's deadly. It's a ticking time bomb.

How do we treat a ticking time bomb? Do we move it? No, it's too risky to move it. We try to reduce the risk where it is.

Nuclear waste is something we just don't know what to do with, so the first thing we must do is to stop making it.

(Applause.)

We need to focus our brightest and best minds and research dollars on finding ways to make nuclear waste less dangerous to the communities where
nuclear power-plants are located.

A few Holtec boosters see green but I see red. They see dollar signs but I see dead bodies. Shame on the nuclear industry for preying on vulnerable state where good-paying jobs with good benefits are hard to find.

Shame on Holtec, ALEA, and the NRC for tempting hard-working families to believe the propaganda that they have to poison the land, the water and their community in order to provide for their families.

New Mexico should instead become the hub, the Silicon Valley of a green sustainable economy, developing technology to clean up radioactive spills and uranium mines.

That would be an honorable legacy for our children and grandchildren, who would be proud of the decisions we make here today, instead of ashamed. Thank you.

(Appause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Susan. And Leona, Leona Morgan? Cody? Oh, this is Leona right here, okay.

MS. MORGAN: Good evening.

(Native language spoken.)
First of all, I'd like to recognize that we're on stolen lands. Right now, we are here at the -- I guess I'd like to thank the Apache and the Comanche for allowing us to be -- well, technically, they didn't allow us to be on these lands. These lands were stolen, like I said.

So, I'd like to recognize the Mescalero Apache and the Comanche folks whose lands we are on now. And I am Dineh, so I come from the Navajo nation which is on the other side of the state.

But the things I want to talk about have to do with indigenous rights across the nation. You guys probably heard some of my comments on the phone last week and so I'd just like to remind everybody here it's a little bit of history repeating itself.

I mean, we had this idea of consent-based citing, which is kind of silly. I know it was tried before with the monitored retrievable storage idea.

First of all, I think the process is faulty to begin with. What is considered consent-based siting is really a fallacy, it's just not true.

When you guys, DOE, did their Public Comment Meetings for consent-based siting, there was only five Meetings held nationally. And in Phoenix, I asked, well, who consented to bringing the waste to
New Mexico?

And the response I got was an application was received by the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, not the community folks, not the people who actually live here or the original inhabitants of this land.

And so I'd like to just recognize that there has been 11 letters sent by the NRC to Federally recognize tribes, including my tribe, which is the Navajo nation. However, I think the NRC is overlooking several steps in the process.

Right now, I'm not sure, how many of you are aware of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the NRC or any of the regulating Agencies?

Or, for that matter, any of the elected officials here, how many of you know about this document called the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Okay, let the record show there is no hands going up. How about the -- so, this was passed in 2008 and how many of you are aware of the Organization of American States' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Okay, again, nobody's hands went up. This was passed in 2016 and so I'd like to read directly
from this Declaration, Article 19, the Right to Protection of a Healthy Environment.

Number 3, indigenous peoples are entitled to be protected against the introduction of abandonment, dispersion, transit, indiscriminate use or deposit of any harmful substance that could negatively affect indigenous communities' lands, territories, and resources.

Okay, now I want to skip down to Article 22, Indigenous Law and Jurisdiction. The indigenous law and legal systems shall be recognized and respected by the national, regional, and international legal systems.

And so this is from the OAS declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. And the reason I'm reading this is because it cites that the Federal Government needs to recognize tribal law.

And so, again, like I stated earlier, only 11 letters were sent out, but there's over 560 federally-recognized tribes, all of which have rights to the protection of their lands, secret places, cultural resources, and whatever laws that they have in place.

Specifically with my tribe, the Navajo nation, we had a law against the transport of
radioactive materials through our lands.

So, if this transport should occur, it's directly violating our tribe's laws that were put in place because of all the history and the health impacts of the horrendous things that the United States did, not just going back to the genocide of our people but more recently, the exploitation of uranium on our lands.

And so we have a law against uranium mining and we have a law against transport because we've already suffered the impacts from these industries for United States imperialism and capitalism. And so that did not benefit our people.

We wrote these laws for the protection of our future generations, however, they are not being respected here.

MR. CAMERON: Leona, I'm going to have to ask you to sum up now, please.

MS. MORGAN: Okay, I'll finish up.

And so with that, I'd also like to remind you that under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, there also is a demand for free prior and informed consent, which this letter undermines drastically.

First of all, the letter was only sent to
11 tribes and it's inviting them to participate in tribal consultation but sending this letter not only just to the 11 tribes is inadequate because the impacts from this facility will impact hundreds of tribes across the nation and their sacred lands and our rights to protect our environment and our communities.

So, I ask that all of you consider and put in the environmental report all of the impacts that would happen on tribal lands to our sacred places into our communities anywhere the transport would occur.

Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Leona, thank you for bringing the tribal perspective to us. And thank you, Cody?

MR. SKMA: Hello, my name is Cody Skma, I would like to thank Leona and everyone else tonight who has opposed this nuclear dump. And I heard about this issue about two years ago.

I'm from Albuquerque, New Mexico and whenever I first heard about it, I was really blown away because I read about the history in school and how our Government has tried to dump this waste on other communities, specifically tribes, throughout the country.
The Nuclear Waste Policy Act will require a nuclear waste negotiator to go out and try to find a place to put this waste. And what they did was they selected a bunch of tribes, mostly tribes actually.

And this was environmental racism and what's happening now is also textbook environmental racism. New Mexico has a very high Hispanic population.

There's a lot of tribes out here, there's a lot of native people, and sometimes, white people try to take advantage of it and it's really messed up. And that's what environmental racism is.

For example, the Energy Alliance, they're all white. So, in your environmental impact statement, you need to include a section on environmental justice.

And one part of environmental justice is including people of color in the decision-making process so you need to do that and figure out why the Energy Alliance, an all-white group, is being allowed to do this.

Another point I would like to make is this is a national issue. People throughout the nation are at risk because this waste isn't ready to be transported, and that should be reason enough to stop.
Holtec wants to benefit from this by making the cask, which is not okay.

They should not be allowed to benefit just so a band-aid could be put on this situation. And it's not going to happen, they're not going to dump on New Mexico.

(Applause.)

We've been dumped on for far too long and it's time to stop. And I hope the NRC is listening, I hope you all are, I really hope you are because I've heard mostly opposition tonight.

I've mostly heard opposition on that Wednesday call. I'll hear opposition all tomorrow. The people in opposition -- or the people trying to bring it here, they're all for the money, right?

They're here because they're trying to make money off of it and sometimes, they convince other people that money is good, but this is toxic money.

MR. CAMERON: Cody, could you just sum up for us?

MR. SKMA: Sure. Let's not let this happen. Don't let them dump on us.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Janet Greenwald, Gordon
Dyer, and John Heaton. Janet Greenwald?

MS. GREENWALD: Hi, I'm Janet Greenwald and I'm a Co-Coordinator of Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping, an organization that was formed 39 years ago by people in Southeastern New Mexico who were concerned about nuclear projects on their lives.

So, I spent a lot of years in a community downwind and also a bedroom community for Los Alamos, and that's been going on for 60-some years.

And so I thought I'd give you a little report since you're considering here being a downwind and bedroom community for a nuclear facility. I thought I would give you a little report on how things are going in my community.

Well, if you're a farmer -- and always in low voices, we don't talk about this out loud -- you're going to be talking about how dry things are. Because over a decade ago, a fire swept over Los Alamos National Laboratories.

Even though 1000 firefighters were fighting the fire, it still swept over and at that time, cobs were contaminated, cobalt in the plums, cesium in the broccoli, and so forth.

We don't really talk about this out loud
because the Embudo Valley, where this community is, is the organic breadbasket of New Mexico.

And so another thing you might be talking about real quietly is that up in the mountains, at the head waters, at the Embudo River and the Rio Grande, there's a mountain lake that had so much cesium on the shore that it's practically a superfund site.

And you talk very low about you're hoping that your customers, if you're a wine grower or you've got a little organic farm, that they don't find out about that. It might be bad for business, right?

And then if you're pregnant, if you're a pregnant couple and you're having some problems, then at the Espanola Hospital, where you're going to have the baby, you're going to have to look through a little catalog of all the babies that have been born deformed at the hospital, badly deformed.

And you'll have to do that because you'll have to tell the Staff if your baby is being -- if your baby is badly deformed, do you want to hold it before it gets taken away to wherever those babies go? Or do you just want to let it go? That's why you have to look through the catalog.

So then if you're a kid and you're going to the library in my community, you have to pass a
sign on the door and the sign on the door says if you're a nuclear worker, you can come to a support group at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

You can get emotional support therapy and also, you can get support in going through all the red tape you have to go through in order to get any compensation for your cancer, for your neurological diseases.

So, that's my report from my downwind little bedroom community and I hope to God you never have to go through that here. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very much. And Mr. Dyer? Well, let's go to John Heaton. Oh, is this Mr. Dyer? I'm sorry, John. Mr. Dyer?

MR. DYER: Hi, I'm Gordon Dyer and I live here in Hobbs. I'll try and be brief, it's late. There are a couple of points that I'd like to make. The better ones have already been made but a couple of things with regards to the physics of this.

I don't think people have realized just how poisonous plutonium is. Ignoring the radioactivity, it's just about the most poisonous stuff on the planet.

I don't know if anybody remembers that Russian emigre who was assassinated a few years ago in
London. It was one grain of plutonium that killed him. That one grain was enough to kill ten men.

So the radioactivity is definitely a valid point, but it is very, very poisonous in and of itself.

The other thing, I don't know if anybody's touched on this or not before I came in, but this stuff is not spent in the sense that it has no radioactivity.

If you bring more and more of the radioactivity material together, it has nuclear accelerate properties. No, it's not going to explode, I don't mean that.

But I'm wondering if people have considered is it such a wise idea to bring this much into one location? It can only get hotter and hotter the more you bring into one location.

The other thing is, and you may not be familiar with this but I've lived here for a while, one of the points that people, proponents of this idea, are that we need the economic stimulation.

I don't see it that way at all. I drive around Hobbs all the time, I see plates from all over the nation coming here for work. I think our economy is going to do just fine in the future myself.
And the other thing is that I talked to a lot of people and I was talking with this med-level oil managerial person, and apparently, the joke among the oil industry is if there's a contamination with this thing, not even God himself has enough money to compensate the oil industry for the lawsuit.

So I just wondered. If I think about this, I think about Yucca Mountain, I realize they're opposed to it, but my understanding is there isn't even a goat that lives out there.

There are a lot of people who live here, there's a lot of activity in the oil business here and just ignoring the human element, is it such a wise idea to risk endangering that? That's all I have to say.

(Applause.)

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Dyer.

MR. HEATON: Thank you very much, NRC, for being here and to listen to people in this area and their concerns.

I know your eyes are glazing over at this time, but I felt like there were just a number of statements made that are not only incorrect, they're not factual.

And I respect everybody's right to their
opinion; I don't think everybody has a right to their own facts. And so there are a lot of issues.

First of all, let me talk to you a little bit about who the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance is. We're a group that's made up of appointees from Hobbs, from Carlsbad, from Lea County, and from Eddy County.

And what we do and where we go is endorsed by our members and even though we may be all white, so to speak, I think we all have a lot of other kinds of DNA in us.

But the point is that the endorsement by the Councils, the Commissions, are by people that, for the most part, have a variety of color on those Commissions and those Boards, or Commission and Councils, and they have a variety of genders on them as well.

So, I think to assail the Eddy-Lea Alliance about that is improper.

The other point is that it formed to create to bid on what was called the Global Nuclear Energy Project that was put out in the mid-2000s.

And the Eddy-Lea Alliance was formed in 2006 and the GNET project fell by the wayside, even though this site was a finalist. It had been characterized very carefully.
And so subsequent to that, the Alliance was more or less dormant until the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future came about. And one of their centerpiece recommendations, and it became very clear early that that was going to be a recommendation of theirs, was consolidated interim storage.

And so the question is why? Why was the Blue Ribbon Commission focused on that? They were focused on it because the nuclear power-plants are all located on rivers, on streams, on lakes, on oceanfronts, and in very seismically sensitive areas across the country.

In fact, a third of the U.S. population, lives within 50 miles of a nuclear power-plant, and they are in very sensitive areas across the country.

And so when they were exploring this and risk-benefit analyses and all the things they did, they said consolidated interim storage is a very, very important component to dealing with the back-end of the fuel cycle, period.

Just from a total risk perspective, that's what they were saying and that's what they believed. We had what we believe was an ideal site. It was dry, it was seismically stable, it was 35 miles from any
population.

It was just a great site and it was accepted by the GNET project as well and heavily characterized.

So, the other thing that the Blue Ribbon Commission was focused on is the fact that almost all the power-plants had packed fuel pools. They were having difficulty in managing the additional fuel that was being collected and what to do with it.

And so power-plants across the country, we've heard from XCEL and they have that problem at one of their sites. They're having difficulty finding a place to put their fuel, and so that was an issue across the country.

And so fuel pools need to be unpacked and there needs to be places or a place for this fuel to go. And it was a risk-based analysis, concept, and not that they were picking on us or picking on anybody else, but the point is that we have what I call an area of the country with a very high nuclear IQ.

Our citizens in this area know a lot about nuclear power. They know a lot about the nuclear industry and so as a consequence, we've got two great nuclear projects here and so we thought this was something we ought to pursue, we did it, and we don't
believe we took this lightly.

The members of the Eddy-Lea Alliance went out to manufacturing sites, they went out to see storage facilities, they talked to different companies. And we ended up putting out an RP, so you're blaming Holtec -- you need me to wrap up?

MR. CAMERON: Yes, thank you.

MR. HEATON: You're blaming Holtec for some reason for wanting to make money. We put out an RP that Holtec wanted.

And so that's a natural thing that goes on in business and we were pleased because they have the best system in the world bar none.

I've heard a lot of transportation talk tonight and I'll tell you that the Holtec transportation cask, that two liters is five times less than the NRC standards for a cask.

And it is virtually indestructible. It has 15 inches of steel and lead that surround the canister. It is about as robust as you could ever imagine and it has impact limiters on both ends so it becomes off the rail car for whatever reason.

I can assure you there's not going to be radiation leaks --

MR. CAMERON: John, thank you.
MR. HEATON: -- nowhere for it to happen.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you so much.

MR. HEATON: Anyway, I appreciate the ability to make a little bit of response. I'd like to go down the whole list. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Thank you, John. And we have four speakers left for tonight and we were so glad to have the good fortune to hear from them yesterday too.

And I'm asking them to be a little bit crisp so that maybe we'll close out by 11:00 p.m. Oh, I'm calling your name now. No, serious, Susybelle, come on up.

And then we're going to go to Charlene and Gail Seydel, and Melanie. Okay, thanks, Gail.

So, we're going to Susybelle now, then Charlene, and then Ms. Deason.

MS. GOSLEE: I'm Susybelle Goslee and I have been asked by Dallas County Commissioners to read the resolution. It was passed on April 4th, 2017.

Be it remembered at a regular meeting of the Commissioner's Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the fourth day of April, 2017, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Clay Lewis Jenkins, Dallas County
The following resolution was adopted.

Whereas, Dallas County is committed to protecting the health, welfare, safety and security of its residents through services of the Departments of Health and Human Services, the emergency preparedness training, and exercises provided through the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Parkland health and hospital system efforts.

And whereas waste control specialists have applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license to store up to 40,000 tons of spent nuclear reactor fuel, the nation's most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, at their facility in Anders County in Western Texas.

That waste could soon be shipped by rail or interstate roadway through the Dallas Fort Worth region.

And whereas transportation routes can be predicted but won't be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission until after licensing would be completed.

Therefore, this spent nuclear reactor fuel should remain secured at or near the site of generation and should be transported only once when a
scientifically viable, permanent disposal site becomes
available.

And whereas during the transport, if an
accident should occur with this spent nuclear reactor
fuel released only a small amount of radioactivity, it
could contaminate a 42-square-mile area.

A Department of Energy study found that
cleanup could cost 620 million dollars in a rural area
and 9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated
square mile of an urban area.

And whereas, additionally, exposure to
dangerous levels of radioactivity is known to lead to
birth defects, genetic damage and cancers. Unshielded
exposure to high-level radioactive waste could give a
lethal dose.

And whereas, our lives, land, and aquifers
must be protected from radioactive contamination,
which could result from accidents, radiation releases
or leaks, or terrorist actions during the thousands of
spent nuclear reactor fuel waste shipments that could
occur for a period of 24 years if consolidated storage
is licensed.

Now, therefore, they have resolved that
the Dallas County Commissioner's Court does not
support the transportation of high-level radioactive
waste, including WCS's spent nuclear reactor fuel on
our highways or highways through Dallas County,
meaning rail lines as well, for the purpose of
consolidated storage or permanent disposal of
high-level waste in Texas.

At the time this resolution was written,
the thought was that it would be only on highways.
This was done in open court the 4th day of April,
2017.

It was signed by Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge; Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1; Mike
Cantrell, District 2; John Wiley Price, District 3;
and Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4.

Thank you.

MR. CAMERON:  Thank you. Do you want to
submit that to them? Okay, thank you, thank you,
Susybelle.

And, Charlene, do you want to come up?
And then we're going to close out with Melanie Deason.
And this is Charlene Hernandez.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Good evening, everybody.

(Foreign language spoken.)

This is an opportunity for everybody to
reply to this situation, and I totally agree with the
scientists.
A lot of things have been said already in this place that I don't need to repeat and I also agree that a lot of people are against this thing and probably through a lot of ignorance.

I was born in Capitan, New Mexico. During 1945, my mom was pregnant with me and they blew the atomic bomb and nobody told us, nobody informed us they were going to do that, they just did it.

They also said that there was going to be no high-level nuclear waste in this situation here, but that isn't true. WIP is supposed to not be high-level nuclear waste but it is.

Three times they have lied. This is the fourth time and we have to do something about this. We can't just sit back and let it happen like a lot of other things that have happened and we could have fixed it before it happened.

When I first got here in 2007, I moved to California years back, but when I came back here to my first job, some doctors in Las Cruces University were wondering why there was such a high-level of babies being born with neural tube defects in New Mexico.

So, they set up a program and us nurses went out and did home visitation and health education to a bunch of people and maybe we lowered the
incidents, I don't know. But that made me think about that also.

Why? Why do we have this kind of situation in this state? And I was shocked when I read in the newspaper about this nuclear waste facility here in New Mexico.

When I first moved here, I was not happy about it, I really was upset. I had the same idea, like these other ladies that showed, wow, why does New Mexico have to become the nuclear wasteland here?

Okay, that's all I have to say. Thank you all for being here, I appreciate your time, and thank you for being here. Please do a thorough job. Goodbye.

MR. CAMERON: Melanie?

MS. DEASON: I want to thank the NRC and the public for being here at this late, late hour. My name is Melanie Deason, I've lived in Roswell for the past ten years.

In my late '20s, I worked for the U.S. Army in New Mexico as a radiation safety technician, monitoring the transport of radioactive isotopes and cleaning up radiation accidents, including a military nuclear reactor site.

I was also trained as a first responder.
I was a civilian working for the military, doing a job that women in the military were not yet allowed to do. We were just letting women in in a way that was a little bit more complicated than just support.

I was trained at the U.S. Army Chemical School in Anniston, Alabama, just like any soldier.

But in spite of best intentions by our instructors, that side of Fort McClellan was designated a super fund site by the late 1990s. It's costing billions of dollars in stolen cleanup, if cleanup is even possible.

Nobody deserves to be put in harm's way, especially people who have no clue that something invisible to the five senses may be contaminating the water, air, and soils, and slowly or quickly, killing them and generations beyond.

High-level nuclear waste is not a joking matter, like those posters in the 1980s that said -- and forgive my language -- just bend over and kiss your ass goodbye. You might remember those.

Fast-forward to 2001, shortly before I retired, I spent eight years as Wetlands Coordinator with the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe and with the states' federally-funded wetlands conservation plan.
I raise the question of the science of Holtec's environmental assessment in their section on water resources. It puts Texas and New Mexico populations at risk irreversibly.

Roswell's recorded comments were part one, what I'm going to say now is part two.

Holtec uses a federal jurisdictional wetlands definition and fails to mention that in 1996, the New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department missed the five types of wetlands which, in '97, the NME also adopted to meet the states' definition of wetlands.

They are number one playa lakes which drain to aquifers that are below ground. Two, seeps and springs. Three, wet meadows, marshes, and bogs. Four, lakes and ponds.

And my point of discussion tonight briefly is five, rivers and streams with their banks in riverside forests.

Down the middle of the state, the Rio Grande is home to the largest cottonwood forest in the United States, possibly the world. It's commonly called by a Spanish name, Bosque. I'll spell that for the recorder, B-O-S-Q-U-E.

Under Holtec's proposal for the transportation corridor includes south railway roots
to El Paso, Texas, also, east-west through Albuquerque, New Mexico, for this most dangerous of this nuclear waste.

Are you aware that the same transportation corridor follows the same route of a tri-state water compact of river flow from Colorado to New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico? It's called the Rio Grande compact.

As one of New Mexico's legally-binding water compacts that affect state, federal, and international law, the Rio Grande compact is important.

Because two months ago on March 5th, 2018, New Mexico and Colorado lost a U.S. Supreme Court decision unanimously 9-0. I think we have a record for our Supreme Court right now.

It affects the water delivery to Texas and Mexico. There were four important case law points which I'll not mention today but basically, New Mexico and Colorado were cheating on their deliveries to Texas and Mexico.

The SCOTUS case citing is Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, there's a SCOTUS blog, holding the United States may pursue its complaint in intervention asserting a claim that New Mexico has violated the Rio Grande compact.
This segues into a second compact in New Mexico, mentioned last night, the 1938 Pecos River compact with Texas and the more recent 2009 settlement which was another case of New Mexico cheating on water delivery.

This Pecos River compact requires sharing the river's irrigation waters with Texas equally as beneficial use of any unappropriated flood waters.

MR. CAMERON: And Melanie, could you --

MS. DEASON: I am, I'm right there, sir.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

MS. DEASON: The best for last they say.

Holtec's report states that the region's unique playa lake hydrology, ensures important seasonal rains from April to September are capture.

Because Holtec acknowledges impoundment of all surface water into playas, they admit their site's water will reach the water table, 35 to 50 feet below, including aquifers and the Pecos River on its way to Texas.

These are scientific pathways which radioactive contamination can spread. Therefore, I recommend the NRC deny Holtec's permit.

High-level nuclear waste needs to stay where it's spent with appropriate technology which, if
Holtec is what they say they are, it exists on-site. Why?

It would not be beneficial news to contaminate our waters of the U.S. with radiation and irreversibly alter the food chain for the plants, animals, and humans in the many states, including New Mexico, who are dependent upon those aquifers and other water resources.

I'd like to close with: it wouldn't be wise to mess with the Supreme Court either, they are united on compact delivery. Finally, Holtec's CIS proposal can be summed up in one word, genocide. I know I, Melanie Deason, do not consent.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

All right, thank you all for your comments tonight and I'm going to turn it over to the Senior NRC manager, Brian Smith, to close it off for us. Bryan?

MR. SMITH: I want to thank everyone again for coming out tonight and providing a lot of great comments for us consider and evaluate as we develop our draft environmental impact statement.

That draft DIS will be published for public comment so I would encourage you to review that document as it's released and provide us public
comments.

   Again, at that time, we will be back out
again to seek that feedback at that time. So, thank
you again for coming out tonight and have a good the
rest of your evening.

   (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
off the record at 10:56 p.m.)